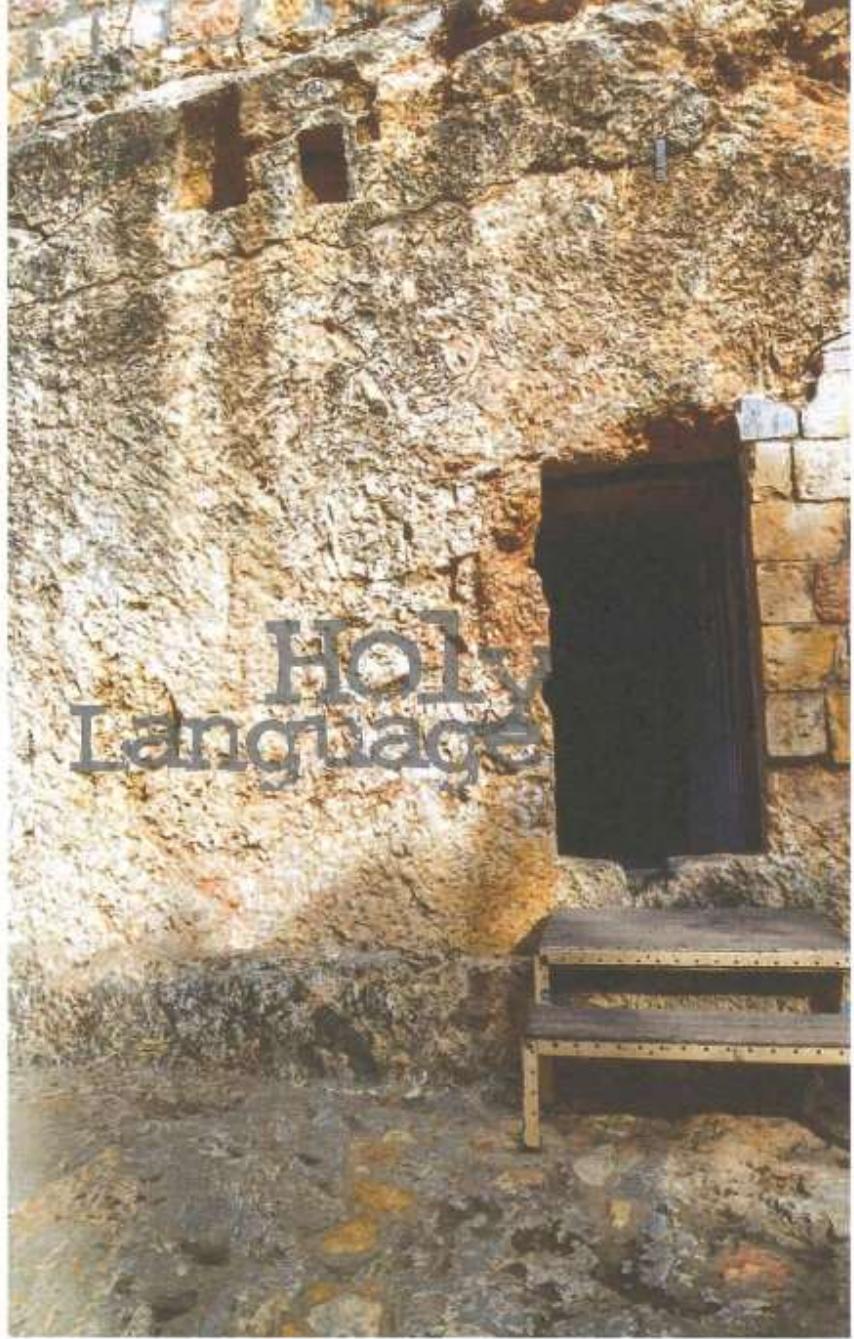




First Congregational United Church of Christ
Manhattan, Kansas

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

SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER APRIL 23, 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: Bill & Linda Richter

Word for Children: Andria Anderson

Fellowship Hour: Julie Appino

Reading Scripture: Leslie Bell

Sanctuary Flowers: Easter Lilies

Grounds Care: Rachel Martin

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

Robert Edwards, organ

“Prelude in D Major”

Louis Vierne

CALLED IN GOD'S PRESENCE

One: Hear the proclamation of faith: Christ is risen from the dead! The Spirit is poured out. Lives are transformed.

Many: **God is active in our world. God brings hope and healing.**

One: Hear the call of God: The Spirit of God invites us into community. We are called to see beyond ourselves, and to join in loving care for all those around us.

Many: **We accept God's call, and we rejoice in the gift of community.**

One: Hear a challenge for today: The Earth is stressed by the heavy impact of human use. The whole of God's creation is groaning, crying out in pain.

Many: **We name the Earth as part of our community. We extend our love to all of God's creation.**

One: People of faith, gather now to worship God the creator and redeemer of the world. Gather now to be transformed by God's compassionate love.

Many: **We praise with joy the world's creator, God of justice, love and peace!**

(Eco-Justice Ministries)

✦ **HYMN 28** *(The New Century Hymnal located in pew backs)*

“For the Beauty of the Earth”

Dix

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

COVENANT CELEBRATION -RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBERS

Leslie Bell

Sara K. Kearns

Pastor: The church is a community of people with varied gifts, united by Holy Spirit. We gather to celebrate God’s presence, to discern God’s truths, and to follow the way of Jesus. And so we ask you, those who seek membership in this congregation, will you join with us as we covenant with God and with one another...

Congregation: to seek the mind of Christ, to be open to the new light and truth God has for us, to bear each other's burdens and share each other's joys, to pray for each other, to serve in the name of Christ, to give to this church and its mission, and to take our stand for justice and peace, confident God's concern embraces the whole world.

Pastor to New Members: If so, please answer, "I will with God's help."
(*Congregation, please rise in body or in spirit.*)

Pastor to Congregation: Dear friends in Christ, let us pledge to these persons our support and care.

Congregation: **As your fellow-travelers in the Way of Christ, we rejoice in the gifts you bring to us. We pledge to you our love and support. With God's help, we will together live out the mission and ministry of Christ's Church.**

Deacon to New Members: In the name of Jesus Christ, we welcome you to the privileges and responsibilities of membership in this congregation. We give thanks to God for your witness among us.

Signs of welcome are extended from existing members to new members.

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."

✦ **ACT OF PRAISE**

(all join in singing Hymn #85)

"I Woke Up This Morning"

I woke up this morning with my mind stayed on Jesus,
Woke up this morning with my mind stayed on Jesus,
Woke up this morning with my mind stayed on Jesus,

Hallelu, hallelu, hallelujah.

Singing and praying with my mind stayed on Jesus,
Singing and praying with my mind stayed on Jesus,
Singing and praying with my mind stayed on Jesus,
Hallelu, hallelu, hallelujah.

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.

THE WORD IN MUSIC

“For the Beauty of the Earth”

Chancel Choir

John Rutter

SCRIPTURE LESSONS

Leslie Bell

A Responsive Reading - Selections from Psalm 104

One: O Holy Creator, you are very great, clothed with the majesty of stars and the light of the sun.

Many: **You set the earth on its foundations so that it shall never be shaken.**

One: You make springs that gush forth into the valleys, giving drink to every wild animal. By the rushing streams, birds nest and sing among the branches.

Many: **All the earth is satisfied with the fruit of your work.**

One: You cause grass to grow for cattle and plants for people to use, to bring forth food from the earth. Your sea creatures roam free and cavort in the deep ocean.

Many: **All peoples and animals have a home and a purpose for living, by day and by night.**

One: When you send forth your breath, your creation lives and the earth is renewed.

Many: **We join with all creation in singing praise to our Creator. May our lives manifest your love and care for all of the universe.**

Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23 (*New Testament page 13 in the pew Bible*)

We sing - #557 “Pray for the Wilderness,” v. 1

We take our minds outdoors

We sing - #557 “Pray for the Wilderness,” v. 3

We confess our sins and receive God's forgiveness

We sing - #557 "Pray for the Wilderness," v. 4

We give thanks for the wonder of creation

We sing - #557 "Pray for the Wilderness," v. 5 (1 minute)

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

Tod Kerstetter, Clarinet

"Sonata in F Minor, Op. 120. II: Andante un poco Adagio" 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.

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

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: Sina Hanna; Angela Hayes; Rita and Mike Henry; Joe Henderson.

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 556** (*The New Century Hymnal located in pew backs*)
 "God, Who Stretched the Spangled Heavens"

Holy Manna

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 music is in 3/4 time and features various chords and melodic lines. 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.

"Let us

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THIS WEEK AT A GLANCE

THIS SUNDAY, APRIL 23 – COVENANT SUNDAY

- 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, Teen Room
- 1:00 p.m. Disciple Bible Study, Conference Room
- 4:00 p.m. Celebration Concert, Sanctuary
- 6:00 p.m. Second Helping

MONDAY, APRIL 24

- 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 26

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

THURSDAY, APRIL 27

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

FRIDAY, APRIL 28

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

NEXT SUNDAY, APRIL 30 – CONFIRMATION SUNDAY

- 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.



Bethel A.M.E./ First Congregational Celebration Concert

On Sunday, April 23rd at 4:00 p.m., the combined choirs of Bethel A.M.E. Church and First Congregational Church will give a celebration concert. We'll celebrate our friendship and faith in song, with our choirs singing together and individually, and there will be an opportunity for congregational singing as well. We will be joined by our wonderful organists and pastors, and a special guest appearance by our jazz ensemble. Food and fellowship will follow in Andover Hall. Bring your friends; this will be a very special occasion!



Can You Help with Desserts for 2nd Helping? – The 2nd Helping volunteer coordinators would like to put together a group of people who would be willing to provide desserts for 2nd Helping occasionally. Inviting a dessert-provider for a particular Sunday meal would then be part of the volunteer coordinator's job. There would no longer be a paper sign-up list for 2nd Helping desserts, although the electronic Sign-up Genius could still be used. This change will make it easier for both the meal planners/shoppers and the head cooks when they work to provide meals. Please let Ann Smit know if you are interested in being a part of a dessert-provider group.

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

Youth Calendar

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.

Take Back Our Lives – Partnership with K-State FIRE

We look forward to partnering with K-State FIRE (Feminist Igniting Resistance and Empowerment) for this event on Wednesday, April 25th at 7:00pm. The Vitality & Outreach Committee invites you to consider joining Pastor Caela at the event to host a table where we can visit with community members about our mission to "Love Unconditionally. Challenge Spiritually. Minister Fervently." Please contact Caela if you are able to help table.

The event will begin at Bosco Plaza and is modeled on the "Take Back the Night" events for women's empowerment and standing against violence against women. This year, FIRE has expanded the event to be more intersectional and will also focus on other lives and bodies that are marginalized as well. There will be refreshments, live music, and a chance to connect with other organizations.

Sunday School News

Please note that there will be NO Sunday School for children, youth, or adults on May 7th due to our worship at Longs Park.

The final day of Sunday School for children, youth, and adults this semester is May 21st.

April 23, 30, May 14, 21 (four weeks) - adult Sunday School at 9:30am.

Faith through the Seasons with Sean Weston. Each season of life brings different questions of faith, meaning, and understanding our place in the world. At every age, there are amazing opportunities for growth and tough challenges. This four week series starting April 23, led by Sean Weston, will explore the questions and struggles people face on their faith journeys in each decade of life. Based on the experiences of those who participate as well as research on faith development, we will seek to be strengthened in our faith journeys and grow in our understandings of ourselves and people of all ages.

Worship in the Park and Blessing of the Animals – Join us for our annual blessing of the animals! On Sunday, May 7 we'll gather at 10:45 a.m. in (shady) Longs Park. Please note: there will be NO SUNDAY SCHOOL this day. Please bring along your own chair if you've got one.

During worship, we'll bless our pets. Childcare staff will be on hand to care for young kids who want to explore the playground or the rest of the park.

After worship, stick around for a good ol' fashioned potluck. Bring a dish to share and your own table service. Drinks will be provided by our Board of Deacons.



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.

SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER

April 23, 2017

John 20:19-31

Holy Language

If you hear the words “holy language,” what comes to mind? Christianity does not have a holy language. Latin probably comes the closest for some Christians. Jews and Muslims have Hebrew and Arabic. For Muslims, the Arabic of the Qur’an is particularly holy because it is the language in which God spoke to Mohammed. In the origin story of Islam, Mohammed, a poor illiterate nomad, suddenly and spontaneously produces a book length masterpiece written with such beauty it can make people cry. That book was and is the Qur’an whose language became the touchstone and exemplar for written Arabic for all time. No, Christianity has no language that reflects that intense loyalty and belief. Our Bible was written part in Hebrew and part in Greek and Jesus spoke neither; he spoke Aramaic.

Does the UCC have a holy language? In what tongue does God speak to us? What do we hear, how do we communicate with this still speaking God? In John’s Gospel we read of this intense and very physical encounter with the Holy brought about by the genuine seeking of that great apostle of doubt—Thomas, who believes nothing from the authorities or anyone else but says, “Show me.” Perhaps our holy language begins there—with the words “Show me.” Thomas was rewarded by his search with a real blessed personal revelation. Extravagant faith, like extravagant welcome, is born in such genuine encounters.

Do not be afraid to say, “Show me.” It comes from a desire to believe with more than a closed eye poke at imagined terrors. It comes from a desire to know God in Christ as a living eternal source of everything tangible and good and fearless about living. That’s our Holy Language!



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