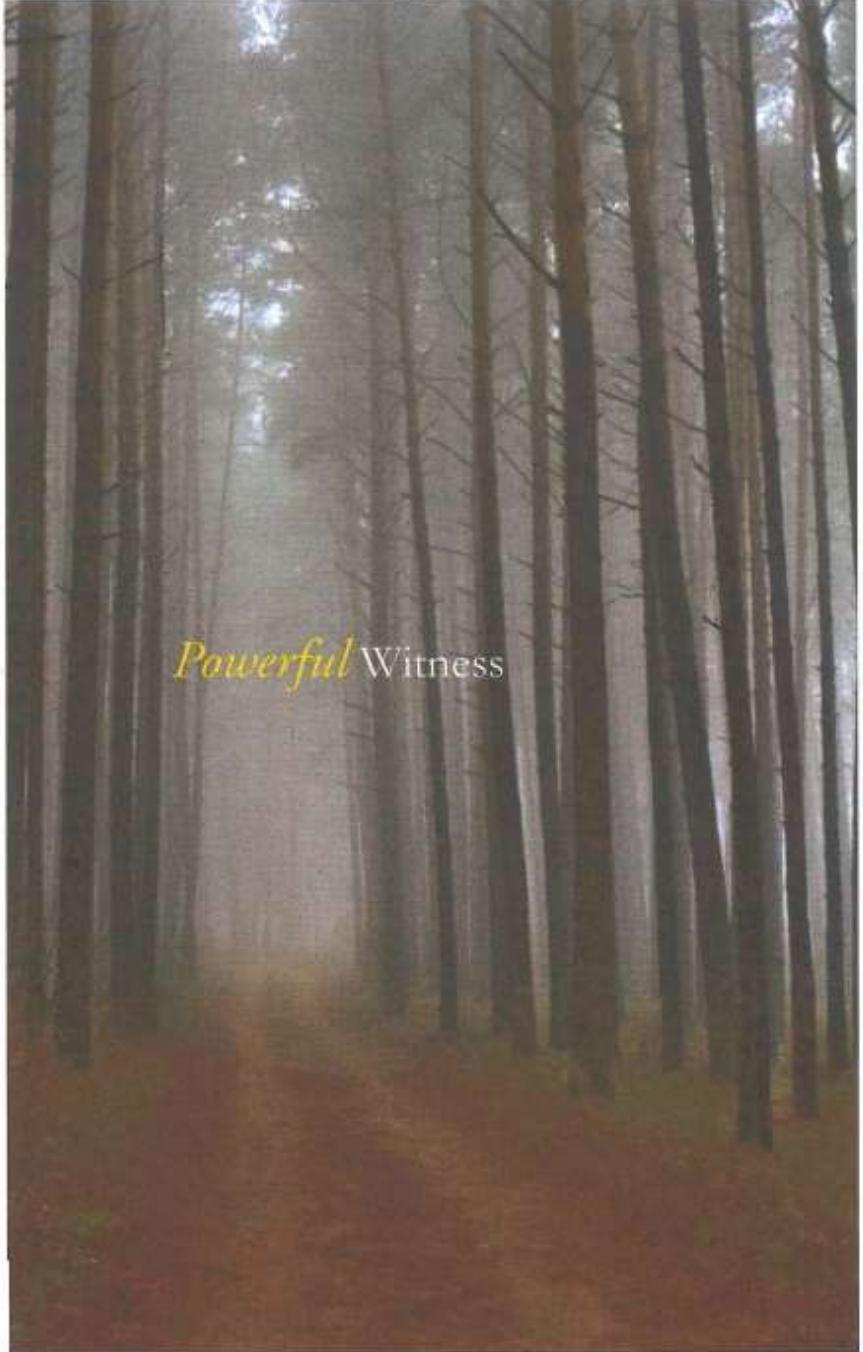




First Congregational United Church of Christ
Manhattan, Kansas

where God is still speaking.



Powerful Witness

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

BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS MAY 7, 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.

Immediately following worship, we will share in a **Fellowship Potluck Picnic**.

Even if you did not bring food, we hope you will stay and share in the meal with us. If you have special needs, please let one of the ushers or greeters know.

They will do their best to accommodate you in our outdoor setting.

Pets are joining us today. Because we will have many different animals worshipping with us, we ask that you be conscious of your pet and considerate of the other animals and people around you. We expect joyful noise, but hope to avoid any unfriendly interaction!

---- Assisting in Today's Worship ----

Greeters: Keller Family

Reading Scripture: TBA

Word for Children: Pastor Caela

Fellowship Hour: Potluck Picnic

Lawn Care: Rachel Martin

Communion Servers: Dean Kinderknecht, Stephanie Swank, Rachel Martin

GATHERING MUSIC

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

Robert Edwards, keyboard

CALLED IN GOD'S PRESENCE

One: God, we assemble with all your creatures in this circle of life.

Many: **We ask you to join our circle and celebrate with us.**

One: God, as we join in celebration with you and all creation,

Many: **We ask for your blessing, your Shalom, on the creatures present here that we love, and all creatures celebrating in the wild.**

One: In the name of God, who creates life, In the name of Jesus, who redeems life, and the name of the Spirit, who renews life, we cry with all in the circle of life:

Many: **Shalom! May your blessing come!**

✦ **HYMN** (*See pages 10-11.*)

"Creative God, You Spread the Earth"

Kingsfold

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

✦ **PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING AND CONFESSION**

We hold the animal we love and place our hand on his or her body as we give thanks.

One: God, for all the animals in this wide world,

Many: **We thank you and bless your name.**

One: God, for all the fun and friendship we have with animals,

Many: **We thank you and bless your name.**

One: God, for all the times we have hurt or neglected animals,

Many: **We are sorry.**

One: God, for all the times we have used poisons that have killed animals,

Many: **We are sorry.**

One: God, for all the times we have destroyed the homes of animals in the forests, oceans or fields,

Many: **We are sorry.**

(Silence is kept for individual reflection and confession)

Leader: ...through Jesus Christ our Ruler and Savior.

Many: Amen.

✦ **WORDS OF ASSURANCE**

One: God hears our confession and forgives us for our sins against the creatures of the earth.

*Many: **May the animals of Earth be our companions in life and lead us to celebrate our place in the circle of life. Amen.***

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.

LISTENING

for our Still-speaking God

WORD FOR CHILDREN AND BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS

SCRIPTURE LESSON *(See pages 8-9.)*

TBA

Psalm 23 *(Read responsively; all join in singing the refrain as indicated by the symbol R.)*

John 10:1-10

THE WORD IN MUSIC

"Let All Things Now Living"

Chancel Choir
Welsh folk melody

SERMON

"Praying in the Valley"

Rev. Caela Simmons Wood

RESPONDING

in hope and thanksgiving

OFFERTORY SENTENCE

MUSIC AT THE OFFERTORY

✦ 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

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

THE GREAT PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

One: May the God of green pastures be with you.

Many: **And also with you.**

One: Beloved, still your hearts before God.

Many: **We open them to the One who fills them with living water.**

One: Children of God, give thanks for the sake of God's name.

Many: **Our praise is continually offered to our Heart, our Shepherd, and our Savior.**

One: Imaginative Shepherd, into the bitterness of chaos, you poured pools of living water; into the cracks of nothingness, you filtered dirt, seeds, nutrients so lush pastures of life might emerge;

One: you carved paths of beauty and wonder for those who bear your name and image to walk, but we longed to follow sin and death all the days of our life, and so turned away from you.

One: You gave your rod and staff to prophets, trusting that their words might anoint us with healing, yet we only found comfort in education's all-too-false promises.

Many: **So, in the presence of these enemies we did not recognize, you sent Jesus, to be that grace and hope which we needed, even if we didn't want them.**

One: With those assembled in this place and time, with those whose love is shown in their actions, we gather as your people, singing your praise and our thanksgiving:

Many: **Holy, holy, holy are you, Good Shepherd of all peoples. Still waters, green pastures, sparkling stars join all creation in praising you. Hosanna in the highest! Blessed is the One who comforts us. Hosanna in the highest!**

One: You are holy, yet compassionate, God of our hearts, and your good shepherd, Jesus, comes to save us. When we would wander the deserts of sin, he leads us to the green pastures of grace. When we turn down the wrong road towards foolishness, he takes our hands to show us the right path. When we are tossed about by life, he brings us to the still waters of your gentleness.

One: Walking through the darkest valley, he surrendered to the cold embrace of death, until you brought him out of the grave, anointing him with the oil of resurrection. As we would join goodness and mercy in following the Good Shepherd all the days of our lives, we celebrate that mystery we call faith:

Many: **Christ died, walking through death's valley; Christ was raised, the Good Shepherd of us all; Christ will come, to bring all into the one flock of God.**

One: You have prepared this table for us, anointing the bread and the cup, as well as all your people, with the Holy Spirit. May this bread which is broken be our healing and strength,

Many: so we walk the valleys with confidence and strength, guiding others down the paths of healing and hope.

One: As we are anointed with the cup's grace, may we bring comfort to the lonely

Many: fill the hungry with nourishing food, shower them with goodness and mercy. And when there are no more shadows around us, when you gather us around the Table prepared for us in eternity, we will join all from every time and place, singing your praises with glad voices, God in Community, Holy in One. Amen.

SHARING GIFTS OF FOOD AND COMMUNION

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: Courtney Keith, Eddie and Elliott; Carrie Lewis; Evelyn Keller.

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** (See page 12.)

"My Shepherd Is the Living God"

Consolation

✦ CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

✦ CONGREGATIONAL CHORAL BENEDICTION

(Sung two times)

"Let Us Live in the Light"

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 melodic lines for both voices.

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

John 10: 1-10 Jesus the Good Shepherd

10 "Very truly, I tell you, anyone who does not enter the sheepfold by the gate but climbs in by another way is a thief and a bandit. ² The one who enters by the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. ³ The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep hear his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. ⁴ When he has brought out all his own, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow him because they know his voice. ⁵ They will not follow a stranger, but they will run from him because they do not know the voice of strangers." ⁶ Jesus used this figure of speech with them, but they did not understand what he was saying to them.

⁷ So again Jesus said to them, "Very truly, I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep.

⁸ All who came before me are thieves and bandits; but the sheep did not listen to them. ⁹ I am the gate. Whoever enters by me will be saved, and will come in and go out and find pasture. ¹⁰ The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly.

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Psalm 23

Response

Antiphon: Carolyn Jennings, 1994

God re - stores my soul and leads me in right paths.

℞

¹God is my shepherd, I shall not want.

²God makes me lie down in green pastures, and leads me beside still waters;

³God restores my soul, and leads me in right paths for the sake of God's name.

⁴Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I fear no evil; for you are with me; your rod and your staff — they comfort me.

⁵You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; you anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows.

⁶Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I shall dwell in the house of God my whole life long. ℞

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.

Creative God, You Spread the Earth

Kingsfold

1. Cre - a - tive God, you spread the earth with
2. The plan - et teemed with liv - ing things be -
3. O play - ful God, you fill the field with

life in man - y forms: the deer and elk and
fore all hu - man birth, and e - ven fire and
lav - en - der and blue. You paint the bird with

col - um - bine, the bee in hum - ming swarms. For -
beasts of prey re - newed the life of earth. For -
in - di - go, with red or tawn - y hue. For -

give us for each flow'r and bird now van - ished by our
give us, that, the last to come, we threat - en sea and
give us that we grieve your heart, de - stroy - ing what you

hand. air. do, Teach us and Teach us and teach us to treat tend simp - ler, with life's

lov - ing care the crea - tures of the land. frag - ile web with wise and ten - der care. gen - tler ways to live on earth with you.



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.

My Shepherd Is The Living God

Ps. 23; John 10:11, 27-30

Composite from Thomas Sternhold, 1549, and Isaac Watts, 1719; alt.

C G C G7 C F G F C

1 My shep-herd is the liv - ing God, I there-fore noth-ing need;
 2 When I walk through the shades of death, your pres-ence is my stay;
 3 The sure pro - vi - sions of my God at - tend me all my days;

Am G C F G Am G7 C G C

In pas - tures fair, near pleas - ant streams you set - tle me to feed.
 A word of your sup - port - ing breath drives all my fears a - way.
 O may your house be my a - bode, and all my work be praise.

C F C Dm G C Am Dm Am FM7

You bring my wan-dering spir - it back when I for-sake your ways,
 Your hand, in sight of all my foes, does still my ta - ble spread;
 There would I find a set - tled rest, while oth - ers come and go—

Em C Am Dm Am Em C G7 C

And lead me for your mer - cy's sake in paths of truth and grace.
 My cup with bless-ings o - ver-flows, your oil a - noints my head.
 No more a strang-er or a guest, but like a child at home.

Isaac Watts, London's leading Congregational minister, wrote more than 600 hymns. His paraphrase of Psalm 23 has been altered here by combining a few phrases from Thomas Sternhold, a sixteenth-century English hymnswriter who also wrote metrical psalm texts.

Tune: CONSOLATION C.M.D.
 Southern Harmony, 1835
 Harm. Erik Routley, 1976
 Alternate tune: CRIMOND (Each stanza above becomes two stanzas.)

“Let us Live in the Light” words and music by Barbara Hamm © 2002 Abingdon Press.

“Creative God, You Spread the Earth” words by Ruth Duck, 1991; music traditional English melody; harm.
Ralph Vaughan Williams © 1992 GIA Publications.

“My Shepherd Is the Living God”

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THIS WEEK AT A GLANCE

THIS SUNDAY, MAY 7 – OUTDOOR WORSHIP AT LONG'S PARK

9:00 a.m. Choir Rehearsal, Sanctuary

10:45 a.m. Service of Word and Sacrament (at Long's Park)

Fill the breadbasket

12:00 p.m. Fellowship Hour

1:00 p.m. Disciple Bible Study, Conference Room

4:00 p.m. Youth Group: game night

6:00 p.m. Second Helping

MONDAY, MAY 8

4:30 p.m. Staff meeting, Conference Room

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, MAY 10

6:30 p.m. Board of Christian Education meeting, Blachly Hall

7:00 p.m. Vitality & Outreach meeting, Conference Room

Turning Point AA meeting, Andover Hall

THURSDAY, MAY 11

7:00 p.m. Taizé Service, Pioneer Hall

8:00 p.m. MOA Narcotics Anonymous meeting, Art Room

FRIDAY, MAY 12

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

NEXT SUNDAY, MAY 14

8:30 a.m. Choir Rehearsal, Sanctuary

9:30 a.m. Sunday School for all ages

10:45 a.m. Service of 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.



Coming up in May – Kansas Interfaith Action (KIFA) Annual Dinner at the Temple Beth Shalom in Topeka on May 23 with **Sister Simone Campbell**, from Nuns of the Bus. Information about tickets for KIFA's annual fundraiser in on their website (kansasinterfaithaction.org) and Facebook page.

Sunday School News

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.

Monday, May 22 at 7pm in the Conference Room “Telling Your Faith Story” Workshop

Do you feel awkward when faith comes up in conversation? Do you struggle to find the “right” words? Are you worried about coming across badly? You're not alone. But telling our stories is powerful, and you never know how your story will help somebody else. To help each other discover, explore, and share our stories, Sean Weston will be hosting two stand-alone “Telling Your Faith Story” workshops. We'll explore our own stories and learn how to share them with others, either in 15 seconds or in long conversation.

**Strengthen the Church
Special Offering May 21**

White Memorial Camp Scholarships for Children and Youth

White Memorial Camp, a United Church of Christ affiliated camp just north of Council Grove provides wonderful summer camp experiences for children, youth and families. Please use the link from our Church's website to learn about White Memorial Camp at www.uccmanhattan.org/white-memorial-camp.html.

The Board of Christian Education is pleased to make scholarships available for children and youth to attend White Memorial Camp. The scholarships are up to 50% of the registration cost, depending on available funds and the number of requests. Requests for camp scholarships should be made to Sandy in the Church office. Campers registering by May 5th save \$50 on the registration cost. Campers registering by June 2nd save \$25 on the registration cost. Make your summer camp plans. You can register online.



Christian Education Recognition - Sunday, May 21st during worship
As another school year comes to an end, we will be recognizing people of all ages who participated in our Christian Education ministries this past year. We'll have a chance to thank our teachers, recognize our learners, celebrate graduation for the Disciple Bible Study, and present Bibles to our upper-elementary students. Join us!

Graduate Recognition – The Graduation season is upon us, and we would like to recognize all our graduates. If you are graduating or have a family member who is soon to be a graduate – high school, college, technical college, graduate school, or any other – please let the office know soon so that we may properly honor our 2016 graduates. We would like to feature the accomplishments of our graduates in the June church newsletter, so information in writing would be very helpful. Drop off information at the church office or e-mail it to office@uccmanhattan.org.



FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

May 7, 2017

Psalm 23

Powerful Witness

If you search the internet looking for UCC churches that have done something with the 23rd Psalm, you will discover St. Paul's United Church of Christ in Seattle, Washington, an Open and Affirming congregation. A very small church by any measure with only 70 members, their choir sang Bobby McFerrin's version of the Psalm and they recorded it in worship and posted it on Vimeo. You would be doing yourself a favor to track down their website and find the video of the anthem; make yourself a cup of tea, get comfortable and be present in prayer with this little church and the singing of this beautiful anthem. They look like so many of our small churches and they are so mighty, so faithful, and so persistent in their presence.

On their website (www.stpucc.org) you will discover that they had a fire in the beginning of 2016. You can read the timeline of their rebuilding process and learn about their social action programs—like serving community meals and sponsoring a refugee family from Afghanistan. Their Mission Statement says: "At St. Paul's we are not called to change people; we are called to offer space where growth can take place."

The 23rd Psalm, an ancient pastoral poem to a God who shepherds us, was written by people who could never imagine Seattle, or an electric piano, or Vimeo, or anything at all about our world except perhaps the closeness of people and the care felt in small communities. In "church talk," we sometimes speak of congregations as flocks, and the pastor as the shepherd. It's as comforting as the words of the psalm to know and imagine all the little flocks across the country, singing, feeding the homeless and shepherding refugees. They are the goodness and the mercy following us all the days of our lives.



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