First Congregational United Church of Christ

Manhattan, Kansas

where God is still speaking.

First Congregational United Church of Christ

700 Poyntz Avenue **telephone 785-537-7006**
Manhattan, Kansas 66502 **www.uccmanhattan.org**
The Rev. Caela Simmons Wood, Pastor — Gretchen Lewis, Choir Director
Julie Hunt, Moderator — Robert Edwards, Mary Ellen Sutton, Organists
Tai Amri Spann-Wilson, Youth Ministry — The Rev. David Jones, Campus Pastor
Andria Anderson, Director of Children's Ministries — Dave Smit, Treasurer
Sue Zschoche, Pastoral Associate — Jeff Keller, Financial Secretary
Sandy Nelson, Administrative Assistant — Nancy Holmes, Custodian

16th Sunday in Ordinary Time
July 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 ----

Greeter: Mackenzie Lechlitner
Word for Children: Andria Anderson
Sanctuary Flowers: Rita Henry
Reading Scripture: Dona Sidorfsky
Fellowship Hour: Kathy Bleam
Grounds Care: Rick & Gayle Doll

☙ GATHERING *in the presence of God*

GATHERING MUSIC Tower Chimes

WORDS OF WELCOME

PRELUDE Robert Edwards, organ

CALLED IN GOD'S PRESENCE

One: Come and worship,
Many: **all you who love and serve our God —**
One: who surrounds us with unfailing love,
Many: **and answers us when we call;**
One: who cares for the humble and lowly,
Many: **and never abandons those in need.**
One: This is our God,
Many: **worthy of our worship and praise!**

✧ **HYMN 581** *(The New Century Hymnal located in pew backs)*
"Lead Us from Death to Life" *World Peace Prayer*

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

✧ AFFIRMATION OF FAITH:
A HUNGER BEYOND FOOD BY SARAH MILES

One: At the heart of Christianity
Many: **is a power that continues to speak to and transform us.**
One: As I found to my surprise and alarm, it could speak even to me:
Many: **not in the sappy, Jesus-and-cookies tone of mild-mannered liberal Christianity, or the blustering, blaming hellfire of the religious right.**
One: What I heard, and continue to hear, is a voice that can crack religious and political convictions open,
Many: **that advocates for the least qualified, least official, least likely; that upsets the established order and makes a joke of certainty.**
One: It proclaims against reason that the hungry will be fed, that those cast down will be raised up, and that all things, including my own failures, are being made new.

Many: **It offers food without exception to the worthy and unworthy, the screwed-up and pious, and then commands everyone to do the same.**

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 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 Lessons Dona Sidorfsky

Psalm 138 *(Page 714 The New Century Hymnal* ***read responsively****; all join in singing the refrain as indicated by the symbol* ***R****.)*

Genesis 25: 21-24 *(Old Testament page 21 in the pew Bible)*

Interlude: At the Well

Genesis 29:21-31 *(Old Testament page 25 in the pew Bible)*

Special Music
Timeless A Cappella

"Ride in the Chariot" and "Lord's Prayer"

Sermon
"Who Run the World? Part 2, feat. Esau and Jacob, Leah and Rachel"

Caela Simmons Wood

ꕥ 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

✧ 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: Jim and Marilynn Mock, Kathryn and Keenan; Lesley Noble, Rivers, Eli, Eleanor.

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.

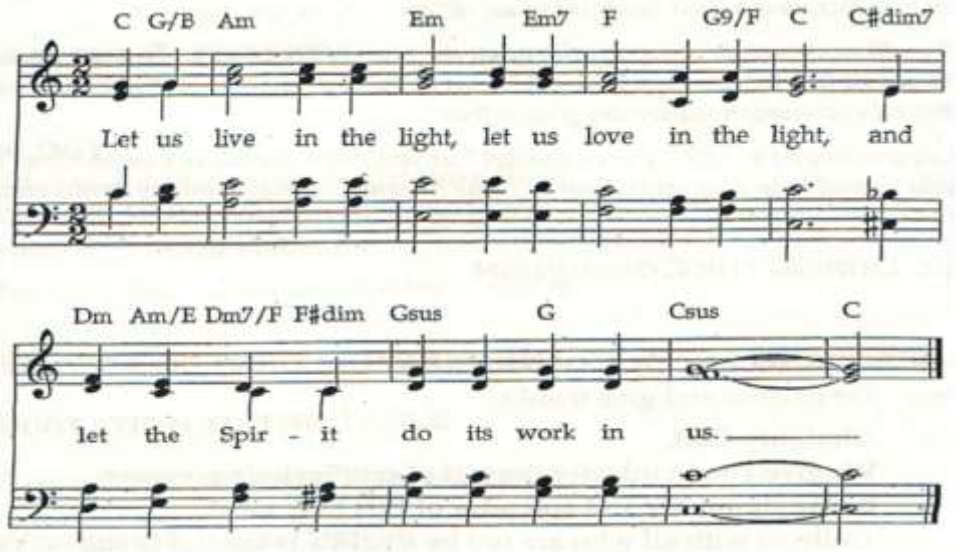
☙ Going Forth *to Be the Church*

✧ **Hymn 588** *(The New Century Hymnal located in pew backs)*
"Let Justice Flow Like Streams" *St. Thomas*

Sharing Opportunities to Love Unconditionally. Challenge Spiritually. Minister Fervently.

Charge and Benediction

✧ **Congregational Choral Benediction** *(Sung two times)*
"Let Us Live in the Light"



THIS WEEK AT A GLANCE

THIS SUNDAY, JULY 23

10:45 a.m. Service of the Word
12:00 p.m. Fellowship Hour
6:00 p.m. Second Helping

MONDAY, JULY 24 – OFFICE HOURS LIMITED

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

WEDNESDAY, JULY 26

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

THURSDAY, JULY 27

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

FRIDAY, JULY 28 – FURNITURE AMNESTY DAY

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

NEXT SUNDAY, JULY 30

10:45 a.m. Service of the Word
12:00 p.m. Fellowship Hour
6:00 p.m. Second Helping

Join us on Facebook at facebook.com/uccmanhattanks

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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.

Office Hours – Sandy is on vacation Monday, July 24, and the office should be open, but hours might be dependent on Pastor Caela's meeting schedule. Please call the church before coming to be sure that someone is there.

Upcoming Dates of Interest at First Congregational:

August 6: Jazz Worship
August 13: Choir returns
August 20: Blessing of the Backpacks, Sunday School for all ages begins, Feast and Festival
September 23: Welcoming Dinner for those new to our congregation
November 12: Guest preacher Stephanie Mott

Upcoming Sermon Series:

July 9 – July 30: "Epic Love" series on our faith ancestors in Genesis
August 6 - September 9: "Back to School: Jesus the Teacher" series on Jesus's teachings in the Gospel of Matthew
September 17 - October 8: "Young, Scrappy, and Hungry" series on the Joseph narrative from Genesis

FIT Closet – The FIT Closet is on a modified schedule in July: Mondays and Wednesdays 3:00-5:30 p.m. Tuesdays 9:00-noon. The closet resumes regular hours in August: Monday, Wednesday, Thursday 9:00-noon; and Wednesday, Thursday 3:00-5:30. At the start of the school year there is always a big need for underwear, socks, and sneakers.

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.

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.

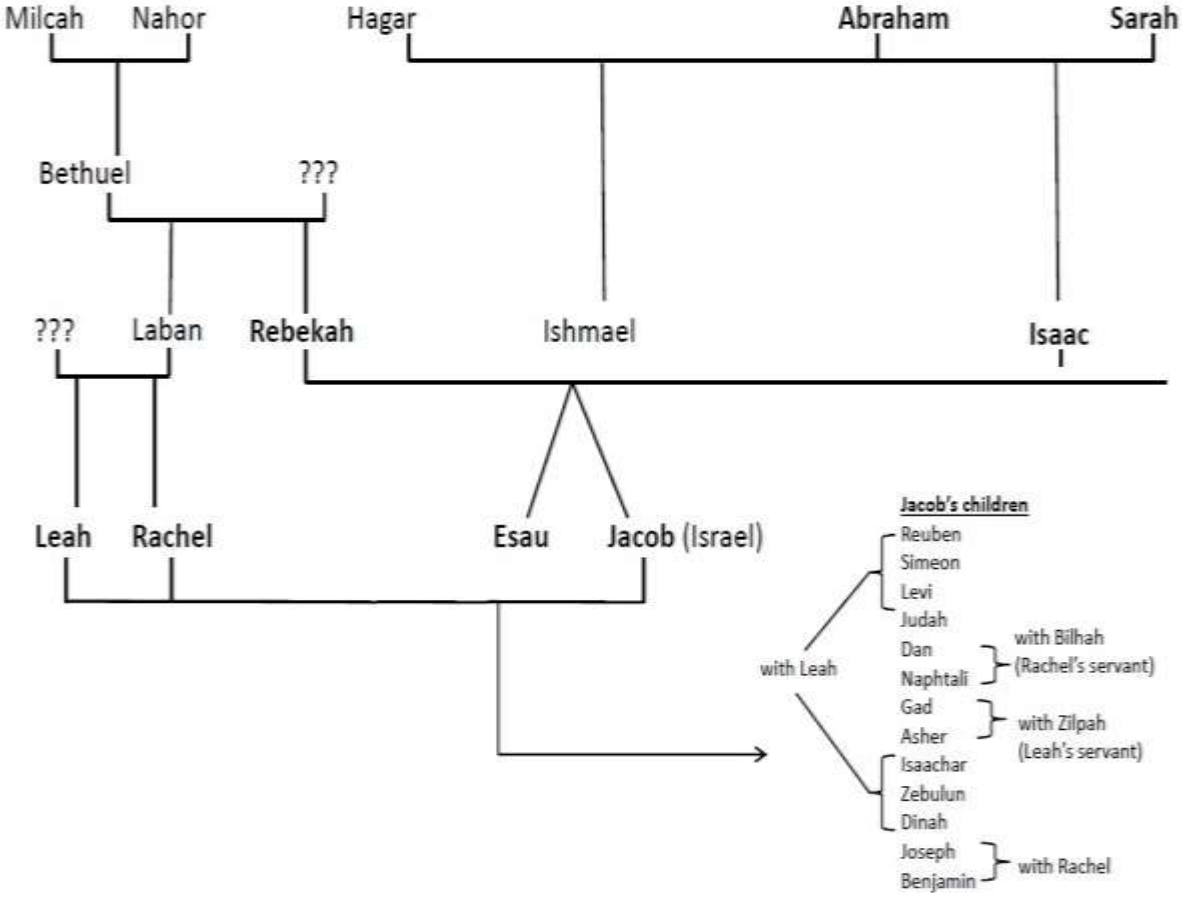
Welcoming Our Immigrant Neighbors – Please save the date for a community event at Seven Dolors on the afternoon of Sunday, August 27th. Our task force that is building relationships with our immigrant neighbors has committed us to assist with an event there. We will likely need greeters, kitchen helpers, childcare providers, and other helpers. Most of all, we need people who are interested in being friendly faces and are committed to building relationships. We also still need flash drives and those can be dropped off in the basket in the church lobby. If you have questions about this ministry or want to be more involved, please contact Sue Zschoche (sue@uccmanhattan.org).

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.


Milcah
Nahor
Hagar
Abraham
Sarah
Bethuel
???
???
Laban
Rebekah
Ishmael
Isaac
Leah
Rachel
Esau
Jacob (Israel)
Jacob's children
Reuben
Simeon
Levi
Judah
Dan
Naphtali
with Bilhah
(Rachel's servant)
with Leah
Gad
Asher
with Zilpah
(Leah's servant)
Isaachar
Zebulun
Dinah
Joseph
Benjamin
with Rachel

SEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

July 23, 2017 Genesis 28:10-19a

Place of Blessing

The words in that great gospel hymn, "Jacob's Ladder" are just a bit misleading. We sing that great refrain, "We are climbing Jacob's Ladder." We probably imagine a ladder into the sky and ourselves hanging on and climbing higher and higher as the ladder disappears before us into the night sky. However, if you re-read chapter 28 from Genesis you'll discover a very different narrative. In Jacob's dream, he's not the climber. Indeed, no human person is. It's the angels that do the climbing. Climbing up and down it says, as if they have business on the earth and scurry between worlds doing their angel chores. When Jacob wakes he names the place a place of blessing, a place where he saw the gate to heaven. The ladder, then, is a metaphor for a gate between worlds. On one end is the earth, and flesh and people, and on the other is something we can't even imagine. A ladder separates what is holy from everything else. Those angels moving up and down the easy, ordinary ladder route show that the two worlds are not so far apart.

In Clemson, South Carolina, Peace Church UCC has a worship schedule and an approach to ministry that is itself a kind of Jacob's ladder joining worlds. They worship at 5 p.m. and people dress casually. Each Sunday in the month has its own form, its own expression. The second Sunday usually has a short film and the fourth Sunday is all music.

On Second Sundays they create an outdoor experience that the congregation shares together. This description from their web site says it all!

To date, Second Sundays have seen us sitting at the foot of waterfalls, floating in kayaks on Lake Jocassee, riding bikes on the Doodle Trail, and experiencing a Japanese Tea Ceremony in the SC Botanical Gardens. Spiritual components have included silence, quiet walking, doodling with chalk, writing haiku, being saged. We have included Native American Spirituality, Celtic Spirituality, and a Zen experience. We are not sure where future ones will lead, but always there is the integrating of the spiritual with God's creation. (thepeacechurch.org)

God is still speaking.
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

8½" x 14" UCC SUNDAY BULLETIN SERVICE
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