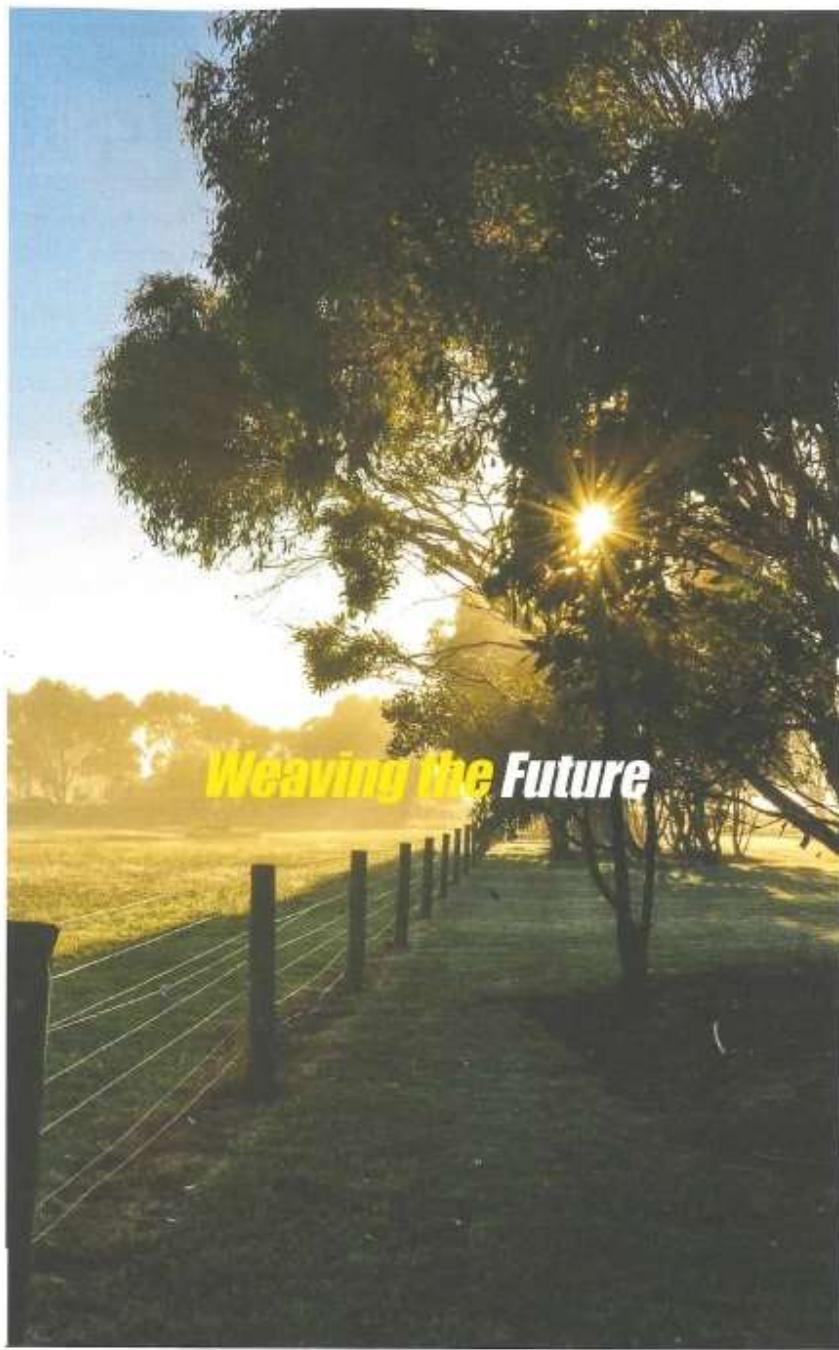




First Congregational United Church of Christ
Manhattan, Kansas

where God is still speaking.



Weaving the Future

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

Sandy Nelson, Administrative Assistant

telephone 785-537-7006

www.uccmanhattan.org

Gretchen Lewis, Choir Director

Robert Edwards, Mary Ellen Sutton, Organists

The Rev. David Jones, Campus Pastor

Dave Smit, Treasurer

Jeff Keller, Financial Secretary

Nancy Holmes, Custodian

17TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME JULY 30, 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: Mike & Martha Miller, Susanne Gilmore

Word for Children: David Smit

Sanctuary Flowers: Judy Willingham

Fellowship Hour: Linda Thurston

Reading Scripture: Mackenzie Lechlitner

Grounds Care: Rick & Gayle Doll

GATHERING MUSIC

Tower Chimes

WORDS OF WELCOME

PRELUDE

“Amazing Grace”

Gretchen Lewis, piano

Wilbur Held

CALLED IN GOD'S PRESENCE

One: We worship the God who inhabits our world and indwells our lives.

Many: **We need not look up to find God, we need only to look around:**

One: within ourselves, beyond ourselves, into the eyes of another.

Many: **We need not listen for a distant thunder to find God, we need only listen to the music of life,**

One: the words of children, the questions of the curious, the rhythm of a heartbeat.

Many: **We worship the God who inhabits our world and indwells our lives.**

From the Presbyterian Church USA website

✦ **HYMN 68** (*The New Century Hymnal located in pew backs*)

“God Is Truly with Us”

Wunderbarer König

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

✦ **PRAYER OF CONFESSION** (*Unison*)

Holy God,

we confess that we do not always love our neighbor. We confess that we have despised others, even to the point of hatred. We confess that we have been hurt by others. We confess that forgiveness and reconciliation at times are just impossible for us. We know that nothing is impossible in you. We come to you, seeking healing and wholeness for us. Help us, whenever possible, to live in peace with others, to seek justice and reconciliation and healing and forgiveness.

(Silence is kept for individual reflection and confession)

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

Many: **Amen.**

✦ WORDS OF ASSURANCE

One: Nothing is impossible with God. There is no place you can go, no end of the earth you can run, where God cannot find you.

Many: **There is nothing on earth or beyond death that can separate you from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.**

One: You are forgiven. You are loved. You are reconciled to God.

Many: **Go and live with the love of God. Amen.**

Adapted from the Rev. Mindi Welton-Smith

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

David Smit

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

Mackenzie Lechlitner

Psalm 30 (Page 639 *The New Century Hymnal* **read responsively**; all join in singing the refrain as indicated by the symbol **R**.)

Genesis 28:10-19a (*Old Testament page 24 in the pew Bible*)

SPECIAL MUSIC

David Wood & Patrick Dittamo, alto recorder
"Prélude and Rondeau from *Suite for Two Musettes*, Op. 11/2" Boismortier

SERMON

"Jacob's Stairway to Heaven"

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

"Passacaille from *Suite for Two Musettes*, Op. 11/2"

Boismortier

✦ 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: Kristin Mulready-Stone, Meredith, Julianne, and Danielle; David and Lois Sauer.

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 607** (*The New Century Hymnal located in pew backs*)
 "We Would Be Building"

Finlandia

**SHARING OPPORTUNITIES TO LOVE UNCONDITIONALLY.
 CHALLENGE SPIRITUALLY. MINISTER FERVENTLY.**

CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

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

(Sung two times)

The image shows a musical score for the benediction. It consists of two systems of music, each with a treble and bass staff. The first system has the following chords: C, G/B, Am, Em, Em7, F, G9/F, C, and C#dim7. The lyrics are: "Let us live in the light, let us love in the light, and". The second system has the following chords: Dm, Am/E, Dm7/F, F#dim, Gsus, G, Csus, and C. The lyrics are: "let the Spir - it do its work in us." The music is in a 3/4 time signature.

EXIT MUSIC

"God Who Stretched the Spangled Heavens"

Wilbur Held

THIS WEEK AT A GLANCE

THIS SUNDAY, JULY 30

10:45 a.m. Service of the Word

12:00 p.m. Fellowship Hour

6:00 p.m. Second Helping

MONDAY, JULY 31

6:45 p.m. Timeless A Cappella, Pioneer Hall

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

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 2

11:30 a.m. Lunch Bunch @ Chili's

5:30 p.m. Board of Mission meeting, Blachly Hall

6:00 p.m. Board of Deacons meeting, Conference Room

7:00 p.m. Board of Trustees meeting, Blachly Hall

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

THURSDAY, AUGUST 3

7:00 p.m. Taizé Service, Pioneer Hall

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

FRIDAY, AUGUST 4

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

NEXT SUNDAY, AUGUST 6 - JAZZ WORSHIP

10:45 a.m. Service of Word and Sacrament

Fill the Breadbasket

12:00 p.m. Fellowship Hour

6:00 p.m. Second Helping



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

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

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.



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

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.

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).

Young Adult Group Meets on August 19 – If you consider yourself to be a young adult and are looking to connect with other young adults in our community, consider joining this monthly gathering. Those with and without children are welcome. The next gathering will be at the home of David and Jared Hoff on August 19th. For more details, please contact David Williams.

Blessing of the Backpacks and Teachers – Sunday, August 20 we will have a Blessing of the Backpacks during worship. Children are invited to bring their backpacks and receive a blessing as they return to school. We are thrilled that the Ministry of the Decorative Scissors is again providing the custom-made backpack trinkets for our children. "Big kids" and adults are welcome to bring along their briefcases, diaper bags, work uniforms or other items that represent their daily work in the world. We will also bless those who are returning to teaching – whether that's in a college classroom, an elementary school, or at home with young children.

William Barber in Topeka on Monday, August 21st – As a part of the launching of the new Poor Peoples' Campaign, the Rev. Dr. William Barber will be coming Topeka to train regional leaders and speak to the public at a mass meeting. Details are still being firmed up, but the event will be from 6-10pm somewhere in Topeka. Be sure to watch the bulletin, social media, and weekly e-news for more information.

Everybody Counts! August 5 from 9am-1pm at the Douglass Community Center

The purpose of the "Everybody Counts!" is to provide free and much needed services to our most vulnerable population. The event on August 5th will include the following:

9am-1pm: information booths, activities for children, free clothing and food distribution

9am-11am: free health screenings

10am-noon: free community brunch, as supplies last

For more information, email everybodycountsmhk@gmail.com



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.

Fall 2017: Sunday School Opportunities for Adults and Youth

All classes are at 9:30a.m. The nursery is open for babies and toddlers. Sunday School classes for preschoolers and elementary-schoolers take place on the second floor. Middle-schoolers and high-schoolers are invited to the classes below or may be interested in helping teach younger children. Please contact Andria Anderson (children@uccmanhattan.org) or Tai Amri Spann-Wilson (youth@uccmanhattan.org) for more information about options for children and youth.

August 20 through September 24 (six weeks)

Peace Training I: (for High Schoolers, College Aged and Adults Participants) Led by Tai Amri Spann-Wilson

This 6-Week, multi-generational class is designed for those interested in participating in a basic training on peace and conflict resolution. Drawing from experience with the Quaker curriculum from the Alternatives to Violence Program (AVP) and Help Increase the Peace Program (HIPP) as well as trainings in Beyond Diversity 101 (BD101) and The Kingian Nonviolent Training Program, I will be incorporating tools and lessons designed to align body, mind and spirit with the objectives of peace and social justice. Each class will involve movement, spiritual practice, and strategies for creating social change, following the motto to be the change that we want to see in the world. Participants, aged 13 and up, are encouraged to bring comfortable clothing, notebooks, and an object of special meaning to them for a makeshift altar. If you have any questions, please contact Tai Amri Spann-Wilson at youth@uccmanhattan.org.

October 1 through November 12 (seven weeks)

The Language of Faith

Led by Dave Smit

Ever hear the slogan, "Take people for what they mean, not for what they say?" It turns out the slogan is right. We understand each other in complicated ways that cannot be accounted for primarily by the words we use. The context in which we use words may be more important than the words themselves. In this class, we'll examine how we talk about what matters to us, following the procedures of Hermeneutics, or the theory and practice of interpretation. We can call it Hermen, for short. We'll begin by studying how we rely on context to understand each other's everyday speech and writing, then move on to examine how we bring our own background and experience to written texts. With this as

a framework, we'll delve into how to effectively use terms such as "good" and "bad," and "right" and "wrong," how to appropriately interpret sacred texts, and how to share our faith with others who may think our beliefs and values are very strange. We'll explore ways to make our judgments seem reasonable to people who disagree with us and our faith sensible to those whose beliefs are very different from our own.

December 3 through December 24 (Advent, four weeks)

Opening ourselves to the mind, body, and spirit of the Holidays

Led by Donna Keyser and Deane Lehman

Lunch Bunch August 2— We join together with Bethel AME Church in an opportunity for members of our two congregations to get to know one another. Wednesday, August 2 at **Chili's** (214 Ft. Riley Blvd.). 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 clicking on Community Life/Events Calendar on the church website at www.uccmanhattan.com.)

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.

Feast and Festival Sunday, August 20

Feast and Festival will kick off our church year on August 20, 2017 at 6:00. We will be joining our church and Second Helping family for dinner and dessert. Vegan options will be provided.

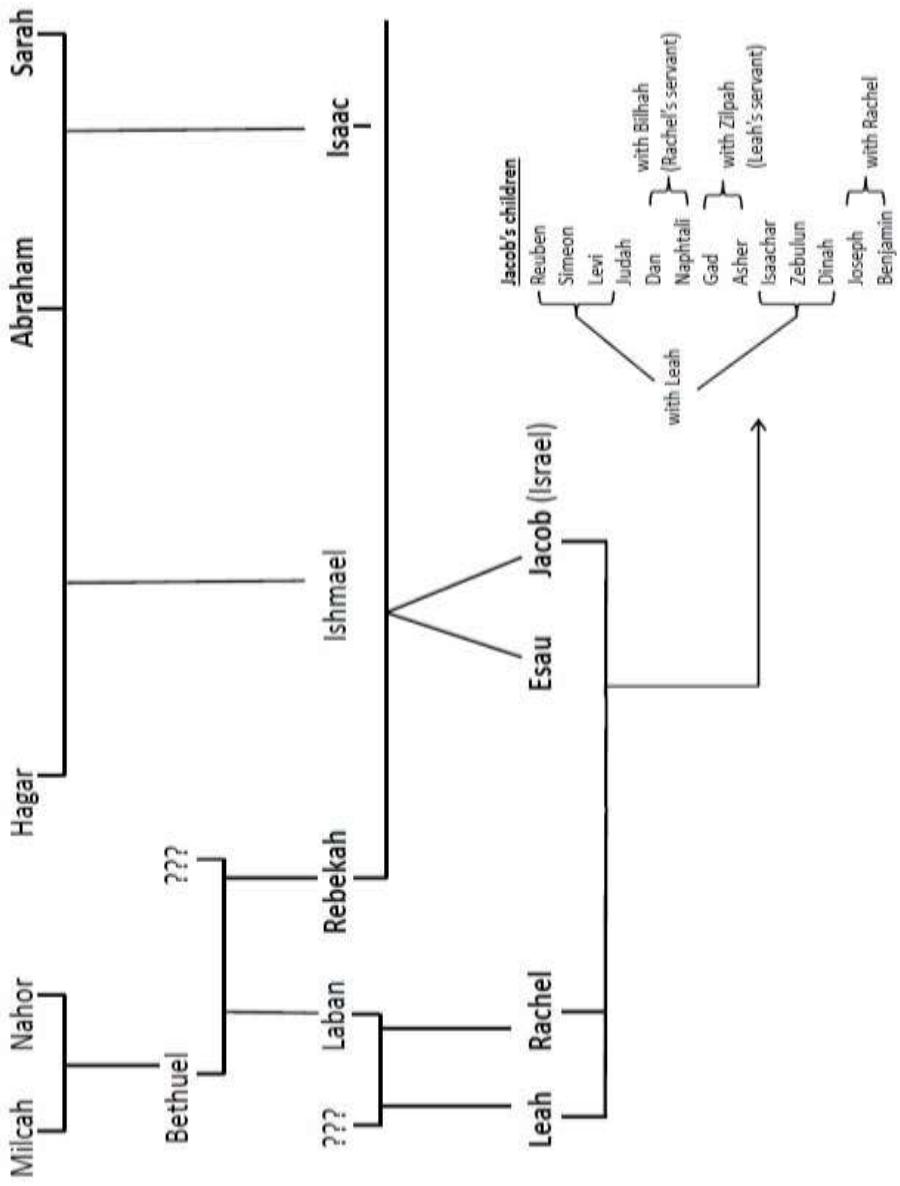


You are encouraged to bring your own table service but paper goods will be provided.

The cake walk is back by popular demand and the Ministry of Decorative Scissors will have a crafting table set up.



Monetary donations are being requested for the meal and sugar like donations are being requested for the cake walk.



Weaving the Future

Sometimes our world is woven out of starts and stops, and the threads tear and we don't always see how grace is evident in things that feel hurtful. Clearly, Jacob's extra seven years at work for his beloved probably didn't feel like a good turn of events. Life doesn't always turn out the way we think it will, and reconciliation doesn't always happen. People from our past who have wronged us or misjudged us rarely come to us and say, "I'm sorry." But what a surprising and hopeful thing it is when resolution and healing does happen, and how appropriate when it happens in the church, especially between a church and a pastor.

In 1981, Rev. Kevin A. Johnson was ousted from his United Methodist church when a member of the congregation outed him as gay. At the time, it was devastating to him and for twenty years he left church work. In 2002, after joining the United Church of Christ, he returned to ministry and helped start the Bloom in the Desert Ministries, a sanctuary community for people who have experienced abuse and discrimination. This year the church that fired him asked him to come back and be feted so they could apologize and make right what was wrong.

The United Methodist Church in Kenosha Wisconsin voted to become a reconciling congregation within the United Methodist system. They now stand as a congregation fighting their denomination's stance on sexual orientation. They now stand as a church that, like the United Church of Christ, offers extravagant welcome to the whole world.

And that welcome included a reaching out to their old pastor and a hope for reunion.

In February, 2017, Reverend Johnson and his husband were welcomed to Kenosha with tears and great joy. In the years he spent out of the church, Kevin Johnson says he never felt separated from God. As injustice and ill treatment did not break the spirit of Jacob, neither did it destroy the spirit of radical inclusion that emerges anew everyday from the power of a reconciliation such as this.

