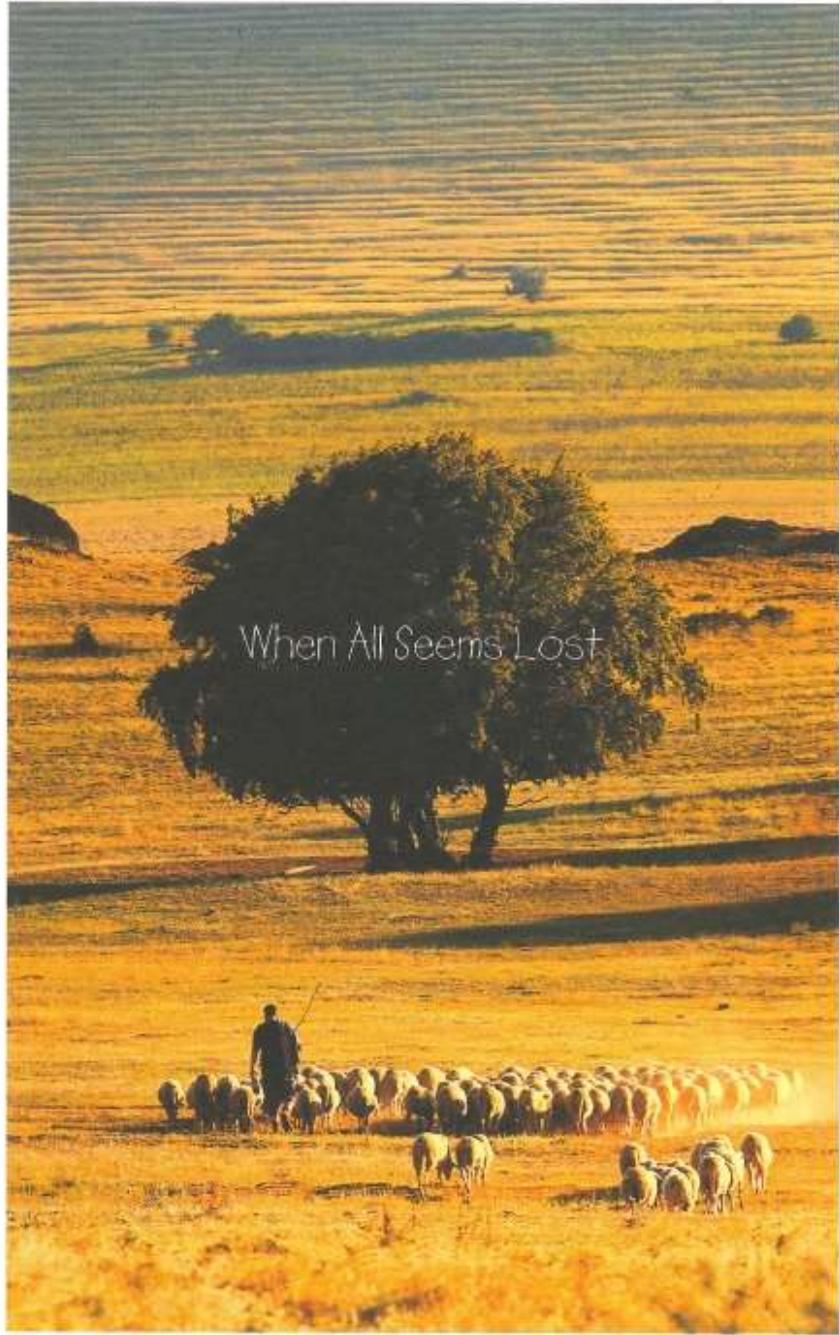




First Congregational United Church of Christ
Manhattan, Kansas

where God is still speaking.



When All Seems Lost

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. Christian Watkins, Campus Pastor

Dave Smit, Treasurer

Jeff Keller, Financial Secretary

Nancy Holmes, Custodian

19TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME AUGUST 13, 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: TBA

Word for Children: Amanda Tross

Sanctuary Flowers: Linda Richter

Fellowship Hour: TBA

Reading Scripture: Leslie Bell

Grounds Care: Rick & Gayle Doll

Worship Leader: Jonathan Mertz

WORDS OF WELCOME

PRELUDE

Robert Edwards, organ
Johannes Brahms

“Intermezzo in A minor, Op.116”

CALLED IN GOD'S PRESENCE

One: Come, all that are weary, all that are carrying burdens so heavy

Many: **Jesus will give us rest**

One: Come, take what Jesus has to offer: love, forgiveness, and grace

Many: **Christ will give us peace**

One: Come, find rest, and learn from Jesus

Many: **For Christ will give us rest in our souls**

One: Come, let us worship our God

Many: **Let us follow Jesus, who leads us into life.**

Adapted from the Rev. Mindi Welton-Mitchell

✦ **HYMN 69** (*The New Century Hymnal located in pew backs*)

“Come, God, Creator, Be Our Shield”

Old First

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

✦ **PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

One: God, we have become proficient in religious planning and performance. We can say all the correct words, but sometimes we leave our hearts far behind.

Many: **Have we practiced our lives to make them predictable and safe, becoming as bored as we are proud?**

One: Where you find it, break through false religious pride. Surprise us with your supremacy.

Many: **Stun us with how dangerous you are!**

One: We have sometimes kept ourselves busy. But for many, self-sufficiency has left exhaustion in its wake, and we are left anxious and bereft.

Many: **We give up trying to get our act together!**

One: We come to you now, as you have summoned us. Show us your heart and train us in humility.

Many: **We ask for insight to see and to seize opportunities for rest.**
(Silence is kept for individual reflection and confession)

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

Many: **Amen.**

Adapted from a prayer by Dorcas, <http://revogalprayerpals.blogspot.ca/>

✦ **WORD OF ASSURANCE**

One: God loves you madly. God knows you have gone astray and have made mistakes and God loves you exactly the way you are. God is calling you back to the path.

Many: **Listen for your name. Listen for God's call. Listen, learn, and love, for God has loved you into being, and God will love you into abundant life. 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."

✦ **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

Amanda Tross

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

Leslie Bell

Psalm 84 (*Page 675 The New Century Hymnal **read responsively**; all join in singing the refrain as indicated by the symbol **R.***)

Matthew 11:28-30 (*New Testament page 11 in the pew Bible*)

THE WORD IN MUSIC

"Amazing Grace"

Chancel Choir
arr. John Coates, Jr.

SERMON

"Rest from Our Burdens"

Sean Weston

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

"Sketch in D flat major"

Robert Schumann

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: David and Ann Smit, Rachel and Joanna; Lysle Oppenlander; Linda and Bill Richter.

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 484** (*The New Century Hymnal located in pew backs*)
“O Come to Me, You Weary”

Meirionydd

**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 song "Let Us Live in the Light". It consists of two systems of music. The first system has a treble clef and a 2/2 time signature. The melody is written on the upper staff, and the bass line is on the lower staff. The lyrics "Let us live in the light, let us love in the light, and" are written below the melody. The second system continues the melody and bass line with the lyrics "let the Spir - it do its work in us." The music ends with a final chord. Chord symbols are written above the treble staff: C, G/B, Am, Em, Em7, F, G9/F, C, C#dim7 in the first system, and Dm, Am/E, Dm7/F, F#dim, Gsus, G, Csus, C in the second system.

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

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.

THIS WEEK AT A GLANCE

THIS SUNDAY, AUGUST 13

- 9:30 a.m. Choir Rehearsal
- 10:45 a.m. Service of the Word
- 12:00 p.m. Fellowship Hour
- 6:00 p.m. Second Helping

MONDAY, AUGUST 14

- 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, AUGUST 16

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

THURSDAY, AUGUST 17

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

FRIDAY, AUGUST 18

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

SATURDAY, AUGUST 19

- 6:00 p.m. Young Adult Potluck at the home of Dave & Jared Hoff

NEXT SUNDAY, AUGUST 20

- 8:30 a.m. Choir Rehearsal
- 9:30 a.m. Sunday School for all Ages
- 10:45 a.m. Service of the Word
Blessing of the Backpacks
- 12:00 p.m. Fellowship Hour
- 6:00 p.m. FEAST & FESTIVAL



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

Pastor Caela on Vacation – Pastor Caela is on vacation from Wednesday, August 9 - Tuesday, August 15. If you are in need of pastoral care during this time, please contact the office or Stacy Shaffer, P.O. of Deacons, to be put in touch with the Rev. Jonalu Johnstone from the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship.

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 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:

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

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.

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).

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.

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 is coming Topeka to train regional leaders and speak to the public at a mass meeting. The Kansas-Oklahoma conference of UCC is providing generous funding for the event which is sponsored by the Kansas People's Agenda. The meeting will feature leaders directly affected from Kansas and Missouri along with Reverend Barber II from Repairers of the Breach, coming together to revive the moral narrative and in opposition to a culture of systemic racism, entrenched poverty, militarism, environmental devastation, and related issues and reviving the unfinished work and mission of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. The event will be from 7-9pm at the First United Methodist Church of Topeka (600 SW Blvd). MAPJ is chartering a bus from MHK that will leave at 4:30. Please contact the church office or Jess Girdler for more information on how to sign up for the MAPJ bus.



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 Hospitality – Hospitality help is needed for the Kansas Interfaith Action (KIFA) board retreat in MHK, August 27 and 28. Board members Sean Weston and Linda Thurston are making local arrangements. Help is needed for Sunday supper (at the Unitarian Universalist fellowship) and breakfast (at First Congregational), as well as Saturday PM home stays for board members traveling in for the weekend. Let Sean or Linda know if you can help.

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.



ECM News – Ecumenical Campus Ministry (ECM) at Kansas State University is pleased to announce the calling of Rev. Christian Watkins as Campus Pastor effective August 1, 2017. As Campus Pastor, Rev. Watkins will provide pastoral and programmatic leadership to support K-State students in exploring their spiritual beliefs through fellowship, study and service.

Rev. Watkins is returning to her home state of Kansas after serving most recently as a mission co-worker in Istanbul, Turkey with Global Ministries. Prior to that, she served in parish ministry with the United Church of Christ. Rev. Watkins graduated from the University of Kansas and Yale Divinity School. She was ordained in the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) having grown up as a fifth generation Disciple. Her ministerial passions include interfaith and ecumenical partnership initiatives.

In her spare time, Rev. Watkins enjoys writing musical liturgy, spending time with her family, and Blues dancing. She begins her time as Campus Pastor with enthusiasm for ECM's incredible witness at K-State and among the larger Manhattan, KS community. She is excited by the challenge of faithfully serving neighbor, whether in the Flint Hills or across the ocean.

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

continued on reverse

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

Potluck & Discussion, Aug. 27, 12:30 p.m. – The Vitality

Committee will host a casual potluck and discussion, **Sunday August 27th** after worship and fellowship. This will be a time to reflect on the Poor People's Campaign for those who went to the event on the 21st in Topeka, but is also more than welcome to people who didn't attend and wish to talk about related topics of social justice, poverty, and grass-roots organizing. We will meet in the basement at Church at 12:30 p.m. A few trays and snacks will be provided but we ask that people bring their own lunch if they so desire. We look forward to talking with you! If you have any questions contact Rachel Gintner.

Fit Closet – The Fit Closet is not accepting general clothing until further notice. The exception is new socks and underwear for children of all ages. School supplies are also desired.

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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*

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We hold ourselves accountable before God for this mission statement.

Acolyte Training

On Sunday morning, August 27th, from 10:00-10:30, elementary aged children are invited to join Pastor Caela and Andria for Acolyte Training in the sanctuary to learn how to light the candles during worship. Children who have already been trained are also invited to join in to help during this training session.

TENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

August 13, 2017

Genesis 37:1-4, 12-28

When All Seems Lost

If you have ever crossed a desert you know the emptiness and constancy of its endless horizon, and you know the loneliness it evokes. Imagine that you are Joseph abandoned by your brothers and left in the desert. Imagine you are a mother holding your children's hands hoping to cross a border over a desert and you need water. Then, you see a water station and it actually has water in it. You cup your hands and under the night sky the water feels cool. Members of Shadow Rock UCC in Phoenix, Arizona, keep such water stations full and they offer their church as sanctuary. They are on the front lines of a battle for welcome. They are on the front lines of a battle to remind ourselves, as a country, who it is we are called to welcome. They are on the front lines of a battle to make a home for the refugee and to care for the marginalized. Every month they travel to their local ICE (Immigration and Customs Enforcement) office, read a statement and pray. They match the constancy of the desert with the constancy of their belief that doing the gospel is as important as preaching it.

American soldiers in postwar Europe found these words inscribed in the basement of a bombed-out building. The words were scrawled under a Star of David.

"I believe in the sun,
even when it is not shining.
I believe in love,
even when I do not feel it.
I believe in God,
even when God is silent."

Both the members of the Shadow Rock congregation and those they serve could say these words and scratch them anywhere. The mother and her children walking for their lives only make it through the night because they have words like these on their heart. Those who serve the mother and her children are people who understand that hope is stronger than hyped belief and they do this work because it is mandated by the prophets of the Hebrew Bible who called nations to protect the refugee and by Jesus who calls us to shelter the weak and give water to the thirsty.



8.5" x 14" UCC SUNDAY BULLETIN SERVICE
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