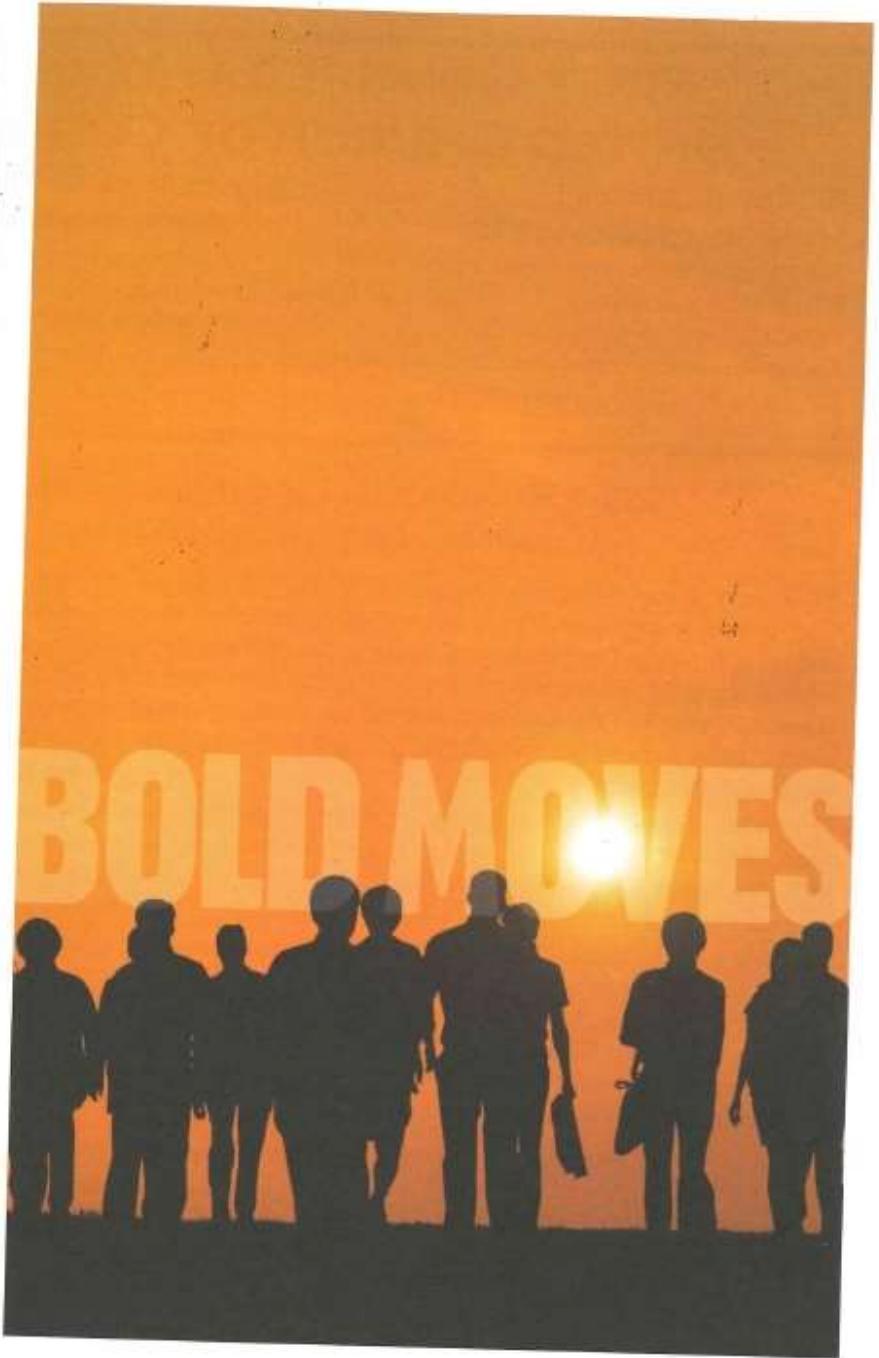




**First Congregational United Church of Christ**  
Manhattan, Kansas

*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

Sandy Nelson, Administrative Assistant

telephone 785-537-7006

[www.uccmanhattan.org](http://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

## 20<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME AUGUST 20, 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:** Mike & Martha Miller

**Word for Children:** Pastor Caela

**Sanctuary Flowers:** Linda Richter

**Fellowship Hour:** Judy Ahrens

**Reading Scripture:** Jim Lewis

**Grounds Care:** TBD

**WORDS OF WELCOME**

**PRELUDE**

“Place of Peace”

Mary Ellen Sutton, organ  
Langlais

**CALLED IN GOD'S PRESENCE**

*One:* We gather to worship our God,

*Many:* **who speaks the words of peace we need in chaotic times.**

*One:* We gather to follow Jesus,

*Many:* **who encourages to never fear, for he is near.**

*One:* We gather to be filled with the Spirit,

*Many:* **who anoints us so we can go to serve our world.**

*Rev. Thom Shumann*

✦ **HYMN** (*See page 8*)

“God of All Learning”

*Bunessan*

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

✦ **AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

*A New Creed #887*

*One:* We are not alone, we live in God’s world.

*Many:* **We believe in God:**

**who has created and is creating,**

**who has come in Jesus,**

**the Word made flesh,**

**to reconcile and make new,**

**who works in us and others by the Spirit.**

**We trust in God.**

**We are called to be the Church:**

**to celebrate God’s presence,**

**to love and serve others,**

**to seek justice and resist evil.**

**to proclaim Jesus,**

**crucified and risen,**

**our judge and our hope.**

**In life, in death, in life beyond death,  
God is with us.  
We are not alone. Thanks be to God.**

*United Church of Canada 1980*

## **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**

Pastor Caela

*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.*

### **A Blessing for Students**

*One:* O, God, bless these backpacks.

*One:* Make them strong for their job of helping students learn.

*One:* May their straps never break, their padding never give out, their zippers never jam.

*One:* May they never be forgotten in strange places, may the burdens in them be light, and may the bodies that bear them be strong, and growing, and blessed, ever blessed, by your love.

*Many:* **In the name of the great Teacher at whose knee we are all students, Amen.**

*(Adapted from Old South Church UCC in Boston)*

### A Blessing for Teachers

*One:* Holy One, bless these teachers.

*Many:* **Grant them patience, wisdom, peace, joy. Bless them when their feet are tired and when their hearts soar.**

*One:* Watch over them as they teach in classrooms, online, in homes, in studios, in cubicles, and everywhere else....

*Many:* **...for we know that learning happens everywhere.**

*One:* Help them to notice the “a-ha moments”...

*Many:* **...for we know those moments are the ones that give life to students and teachers alike.**

*One:* Support them when the days are long and the work is hard. Help them remember they are called to this work.

*Many:* **Great Teacher of us all, wrap them in your love and care. Amen.**

### SCRIPTURE LESSONS

Jim Lewis

**Isaiah 55:10-13** (*Old Testament page 650 in the pew Bible*)

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

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

### THE WORD IN MUSIC

“Sing a New Song to the Lord”

Emily Lewis, violin; Chancel Choir  
Eugene Butler

### SERMON

“Broadcasting Life”

Rev. 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

“Nearer, My God to Thee”

Bingham

## ✦ 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: Jeff and Hikaru Peterson, Eirik, Soren, Kaia.*

## 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 318** (*The New Century Hymnal located in pew backs*)  
“Almighty God, Your Word Is Cast”

*St. Flavian*

**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 3/4 time signature. The melody is written on a single staff, and the bass line is written on a bass staff. The lyrics are: "Let us live in the light, let us love in the light, and". The second system continues the melody and bass line. The lyrics are: "let the Spir - it do its work in us." The music is in a simple, hymn-like style with a clear melody and a supporting bass line. Chords are indicated above the treble staff.

"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.

*We hold ourselves accountable before God for this mission statement.*

## **THIS WEEK AT A GLANCE**

### ***THIS 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

### ***MONDAY, AUGUST 21- OFFICE CLOSED***

- 1:04 p.m. Eclipse!
- 5:15 p.m. Yoga, Andover Hall
- 6:45 p.m. Timeless A Cappella, Pioneer Hall
- 7:00 p.m. Poor People's Campaign: A National Call For A Moral Revival with  
Rev. William Barber, Topeka First United Methodist Church
- 7:30 p.m. MOA Narcotics Anonymous meeting, Art Room

### ***WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 23***

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

### ***THURSDAY, AUGUST 24***

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

### ***FRIDAY, AUGUST 25***

- 5:00 p.m. Newsletter Deadline
- 7:30 p.m. MOA Narcotics Anonymous meeting, Art Room

### ***NEXT SUNDAY, AUGUST 27***

- 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
- 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](http://www.ksu.edu/ecm).



## Upcoming Dates of Interest at First Congregational:

**August 20:** Blessing of the Backpacks, Sunday School for all ages begins, Feast and Festival

**September 29:** 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

**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](mailto:sue@uccmanhattan.org)).

**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.

**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.

**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.

**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](http://Signupgenius.com) and search for *fccvolunteers*. If you are interested in a specific volunteer opportunity but want more information, contact [office@uccmanhattan.org](mailto:office@uccmanhattan.org).

**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.

**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.

## **Bethel AME Celebration - today**

First Congregational church is invited to join with Bethel AME as we show our appreciation to Reverend Valencia Jackson.

Upon her assignment to Bethel, we have been blessed by her spiritual leadership and want to express our love and appreciation of her

Today, Sunday, August 20, the Bethel family is hosting an afternoon repast following the morning worship and an afternoon program at 3:00 p.m.

Our guest speaker is Rev. Shirley Heermance, pastor of St. Marks AME Church in Topeka.

Bethel AME Church, 401 Yuma Street, Manhattan, Kansas

# Feast and Festival Today, 6:00 p.m.

Feast and Festival kicks off our church year today at 6:00 p.m. 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.

## 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](mailto:children@uccmanhattan.org)) or Tai Amri Spann-Wilson ([youth@uccmanhattan.org](mailto: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](mailto: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**

## **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.



## **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.

### Bold Moves

Joseph was bound and tied, sold into slavery and abandoned to whatever fate might befall him. His brothers did that. One might imagine a fair amount of resentment could hang heavily on one's heart as a result of such treatment. Today's Bible passage tells us of the meeting between Joseph and his brothers many years later. They are in Egypt, refugees from a famine in their homeland, come to ask for food. Joseph is now an advisor to the Pharaoh and his brothers do not recognize him. When he comes face to face with his brothers he cannot contain his feeling. He sends everyone from the room and he weeps. Their meeting is emotional and full of the vulnerability of those who have experienced antipathy and now, in their fragility and need, find each other.

Something like that kind of coming together in the midst of pain and a shared threat has happened around the country as a result of increased attacks on places of worship. In Chicago, Jews, Muslims and members of the black community gathered last winter to support each other. One Saturday in February, the windows of a Chicago synagogue were smashed; swastikas were drawn on the building. The next day, leaders from the Muslim community came with flowers and hope. By Wednesday the building was cleaned and windows repaired, and a thousand people attended an interfaith gathering against hate.

One of the speakers was Reverend Otis Moss III, pastor at the Trinity United Church of Christ. He told how his father had marched with Rabbi Abraham Joshua Heschel to Selma. Reverend Moss said, "Blacks and Jews are connected because we know your pain, the broken windows, the broken lives, branded by people with their eyes glazed by hatred."

When people who have a history of disregard discover that they have a shared enemy and that enemy is racism and bigotry, then there may also rise a hunger for community and support. Sometime reconciliation comes in recognizing our need for each other and our shared vulnerability.

