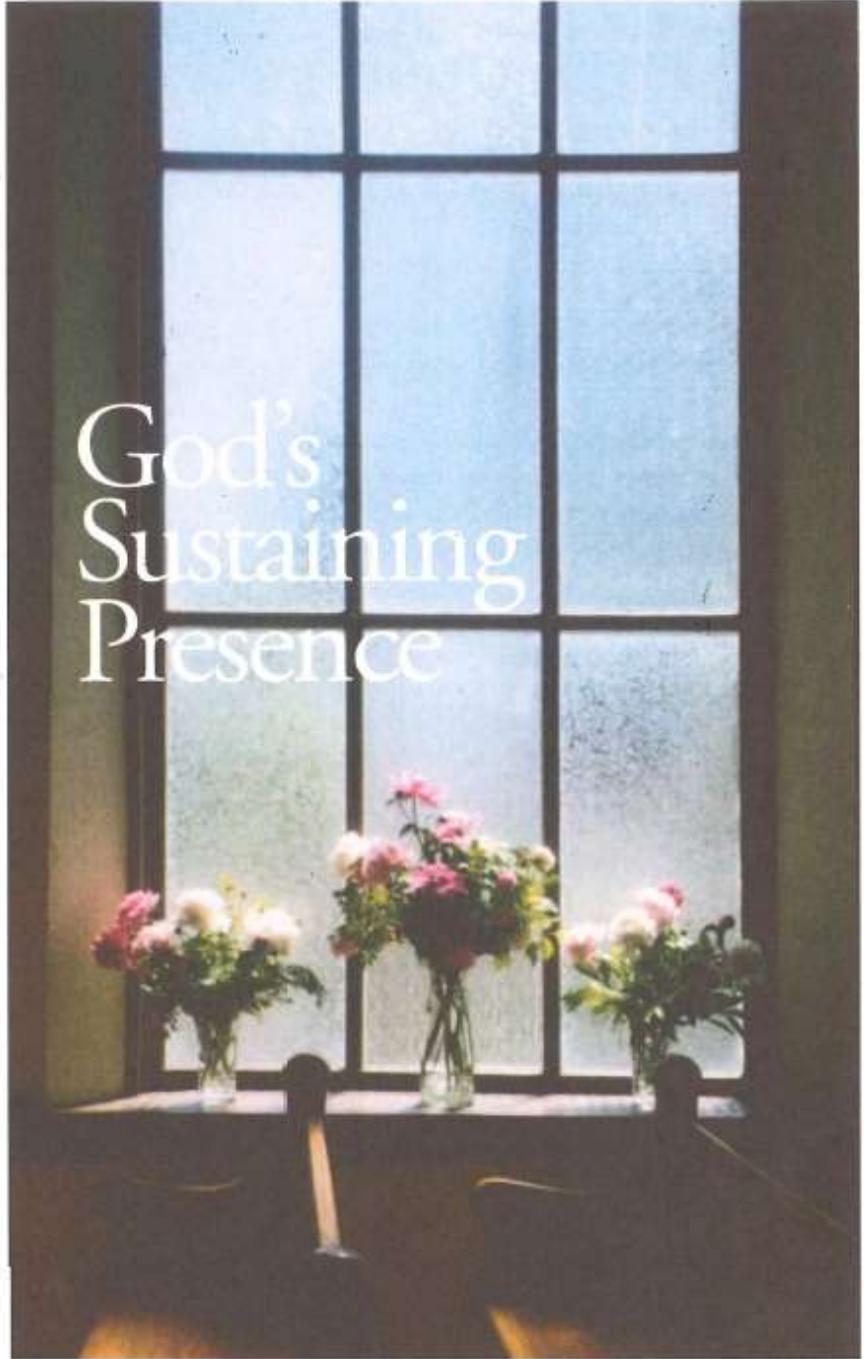




First Congregational United Church of Christ  
Manhattan, Kansas

*where God is still speaking,*

God's  
Sustaining  
Presence



# 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

## WORLD COMMUNION DAY OCTOBER 1, 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.

**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:** Deane Lehmann, Rachel Shivers

**Fellowship Hour:** Donna Keyser & Millie Schroeder

**Sanctuary Flowers:** Judy Willingham

**Word for Children:** Pastor Caela

**Reading Scripture:** Jim Mock

**Grounds Care:** Rick & Gayle Doll

**Communion Server:** Rachel Shivers

**WORDS OF WELCOME**

**PRELUDE**

“Liturgical Sonata in C Major”

Robert Edwards, organ  
W. A. Mozart

**CALLED IN GOD'S PRESENCE**

*One:* We gather here as people who have faith in a story that stretches far before and beyond us.

*Many:* **It's a story that tells us that what we know of life is only a tiny part of the picture; that here, who we are is still unfinished.**

*One:* It's a story of how God's redemption and restoration rewrites what we know of ourselves, editing our lives with words of grace and forgiveness and creating an ending that speaks only of love.

*Many:* **We gather to worship God.**

*Cheryl Lawrie*

✦ **HYMN 18** (*The New Century Hymnal located in pew backs.*)

**“Guide Me, O My Great Redeemer”**

*Cwm Rhondda*

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

✦ **AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

*Mission Statement*

**The mission of our church 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.**

## 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.*

### SCRIPTURE LESSONS

Jim Mock

**Exodus 17:1-7** (*Old Testament page 62 in the pew Bible*)

**Philippians 2:1-13** (*New Testament page 185 in the pew Bible*)

### THE WORD IN MUSIC

"Awake, My Heart"

Chancel Choir  
Jane Marshall

### SERMON

"Is God among us...or not?"

Rev. Caela Simmons Wood

**MISSION MOMENT: GENEROUS TOGETHER**

Sara K. Kearns, Brent Maner

**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**

"Canzona"

Alexander Guilmant

✦ **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 but contains dairy. If you need dairy-free bread, please request a gluten-free wafer. 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**

**WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY LITURGY**

*One:* Let there be no divisions among us,

*Many:* **For Christ is one body, and we are the body of Christ.**

*One:* May we come together to share in this holy meal,

*Many:* **For Christ is one body, and we are the body of Christ.**

*One:* Around the world, of all languages and peoples, we eat together;

*Many:* **For Christ is one body, and we are the body of Christ..**

*One:* Though Christianity is a big place, we all seek to follow Jesus as we understand him.

*Many:* **For Christ is one body, and we are the body of Christ.**

*One:* On this day we remember that the dividing wall has been torn down,

*Many:* **For Christ is one body, and we are the body of Christ.**

*One:* This bread, may it nourish us. This cup, may it fill us;

*Many:* **For Christ is one body, and we are the body of Christ.**

*One:* This meal, may it be for remembrance, and may we remember we are called to be one.

*Many:* **For Christ is one body, and we are the body of Christ.**

*Adapted from the Rev. Mindi Welton-Mitchell*

## **SHARING GIFTS OF FOOD AND COMMUNION**

### **UNISON PRAYER OF GRATITUDE**

*One:* Let us lift our bodies and spirits and give thanks for the gifts of God!

*Many:* **God of the abundant feast and overflowing cup, We give you thanks for the refreshment we have found at this table. Strengthen us. Help us to better love each other and ourselves. Send us forth to boldly and confidently proclaim the Gospel of our Still-speaking, Still-loving, Still-saving God. 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: Jordan and Kevin Tilley, Bryson, Madison, and Graham; Carson Schuette.*

### **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 45** (*The New Century Hymnal located in pew backs.*)  
 "Christ is the Mountain of Horeb"

*Cristo es la Peña*

**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 a congregational choral 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 for the first system 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 for the second system are: "let the Spir - it do its work in us." The music is in 3/4 time and features a mix of chords and melodic lines.

# **THIS WEEK AT A GLANCE**

## ***THIS SUNDAY, OCTOBER 1 – NEIGHBORS IN NEED OFFERING***

### ***WORLD COMMUNION DAY***

8:30 a.m. Choir Rehearsal

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

10:45 a.m. Service of Word and Sacrament  
*Fill the Breadbasket*

12:00 p.m. Fellowship Hour

6:00 p.m. Second Helping

### ***MONDAY, OCTOBER 2***

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, OCTOBER 4***

11:30 a.m. Lunch Bunch @ Olive Garden

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, OCTOBER 5***

9:00 a.m. Ministry of the Decorative Scissors begins, Andover Hall

7:00 p.m. Taizé Service, Pioneer Hall

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

### ***FRIDAY, OCTOBER 6***

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

### ***SATURDAY, OCTOBER 7***

9:00 a.m. Mrunch @Sparrow

5:00 p.m. Ministry of the Decorative Scissors ends

### ***NEXT SUNDAY, OCTOBER 8***

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)*

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



## **Prayers at the Islamic Center, Wednesday, Oct. 4 at 8:45pm**

Join friends from First Congregational at the Islamic Center for evening prayers. We are always welcome to join our Muslim friends for prayer, but on this particular evening you'll know that other familiar faces will be there AND hosts from the Islamic Center will be there to welcome us. Meet up in the parking lot at 1224 Hylton Heights Rd. Between 8:30-8:40pm and we'll make sure you know which entrance to use. As a reminder, prayers at the Islamic Center are separated into two rooms - women and men. Women are invited to cover their heads as a sign of respect for our Muslim friends, but you can also enter without a head covering. You will be asked to remove your shoes upon entering the building. Children are welcome. If you have any additional questions about what to expect, contact [pastor@uccmanhattan.org](mailto:pastor@uccmanhattan.org).

## **Conversations on Race Reconciliation: A Community Dialogue October 30, 7:00-9:00 p.m. • St. Thomas More Catholic Church**

A panel discussion of prepared questions will be followed by round table groups as we are joined by Cats for Inclusion to discuss the issues raised and possible initiatives to improve issues of race relations. For more information contact Jennifer Edwards. [www.facebook.com/manhattankConversations](http://www.facebook.com/manhattankConversations)

## **Indigenous Peoples Day at K-State**

**Mon., Oct. 9, 2017, 9:00 a.m.–4:30 p.m.**

Topics include raising awareness and organizing in local contexts; Indigenous students in K-12; digital storytelling; youth organizing; and public policy. The event is free. Register online at <http://www.k-state.edu/indigenous-alliance/>

## **Anti-Racism Retreat - Saturday, Nov. 4**

The Anti-Racism Retreat will be held on Saturday, Nov. 4th, likely from about 8am-5pm and likely at a Manhattan location. We will be using Part Two of the four-part White Privilege curriculum from the UCC and you are invited to join us whether or not you participated in Part One during Sunday School this past spring. Childcare and activities for children will be provided throughout the retreat, so you can bring the whole family! There will be a minimal cost for registration/meals and scholarships are available. Watch the announcements for details on registration coming soon!

**Lost and Found** – Are you missing your reading glasses? sun glasses? earrings? water bottle? Several items are in the office Lost & Found box. Maybe one of the items belongs to you.

**Save the date** – Rehearsals for the annual children's Christmas Pageant will begin on Sunday, November 5. Rehearsals will be held at 9:30 a.m. each Sunday. The pageant will be during worship on Sunday, December 17. If you have questions, please contact Andria Anderson.

## **Adult Sunday School**

**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.

## **Progressive Christianity Small Group: October 8 & 22**

How do we learn to take the Bible seriously, but not literally? Join us bi-weekly on Sunday evenings at 7pm as we discuss tough biblical questions and explore progressive Christianity. This group is open to adults of all ages and will meet at ECM (Ecumenical Campus Ministry, 904 Sunset Avenue).

**Mrunch** — The Mrunch group will meet Saturday, October 7, from 9-11am at Sparrow Specialty Coffee (219 S. 4th St, Manhattan). Mrunch is a time for mothers of elementary aged kids and younger (even if you are just expecting) to come and enjoy a peaceful supportive environment with other mothers in the same season of life. If you have questions or need childcare, contact Andrea.

**Lunch Bunch October 4** — We join together with Bethel AME Church in an opportunity for members of our two congregations to get to know one another. Wednesday, October 4 at **Olive Garden** (near HyVee). 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](http://www.uccmanhattan.com).)

**Extra garden produce?** — Why not donate it to Second Helping? We could use produce such as tomatoes, cucumbers, bell peppers and other items that could be used to make fresh salads. Please leave washed produce in the refrigerator for us to use on Sunday evenings.

***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.

## October Ministry Opportunities

It's easy to get involved! Circle any of the below paragraphs, add your contact info, and drop into the collection plate. We'll be in touch soon to get you signed up or answer your questions. Thank you.

**Coalition for Equal Justice (CEJ)** - For the past three years, Pastor Caela has worked with a coalition of community organizers to better understand racial disparities in arrest rates in Riley County. The Vitality Committee is seeking one or more individuals in our congregation with a passion for racial justice who might be interested in working with CEJ.

**Hospitality for the Anti-Racism Retreat on November 4.** Need just a couple of people to help in the kitchen with meals and snacks for the group.

**Poverty Truth Commission.** As an outgrowth of the Poor Peoples' Campaign, motivated in Kansas by Rev. William Barber and his team at their visit to Topeka in August, there is an interest in building a Poverty Truth Commission in Manhattan. The Commission is based on a model that is been used in other states. People who are experiencing poverty would publicly share their own stories in a setting where those who have the power to make a difference would be present. Relationships will be built and concrete follow up plans will be made. We are seeking someone to serve on a Steering Committee with perhaps 5-10 other people from the local community. You would represent our congregation, plan the event, and collaborate efforts with the Vitality Committee.

**Grounds care** in spring, summer, and fall requires mowing the church lawn, in addition to the church garden lot adjacent to the alley, prior to Sunday's worship (Thursday, Friday, or Saturday). In the winter it's a little different. Sign up for a whole week – Monday-Sunday – and if it snows, you "win" what is affectionately called the snow lottery. You've got to clear the walkways with the church snow blower.

**Worship** volunteers have many Sunday morning tasks. They greet at the door, read scripture, host fellowship hour, usher, contribute flowers, and offer the Word for Children. Sign up is easy!

*Continued on reverse*

**Second Helping** has been an outreach ministry of First Congregational Church for 15+ years. From 4:15-7:30 each Sunday, volunteers prepare and serve a hot meal and provide a sack lunch for members of the community who are in need of fellowship and a meal. Volunteers each week include a Head Cook, 4 crew members and a Church Host. We are always looking for people to help with this effort, so if you are interested, please provide your contact information below. Training is provided for all roles, so don't be afraid to give it a try!

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Phone number(s):** \_\_\_\_\_

**Email:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Second Helping food donations.** Most of the funds we have in the Second Helping line item go for food for the sack lunches provided to our guests on Sunday evenings. Much of the supplies we use for the meals come from commodities from the state or from the food recovery program at K-State. Every week we distribute: 70 packets of instant oatmeal; 35 cereal bars; and 35 packs of snack crackers, as well as fresh veggies, fruit and sandwiches. We need: instant oatmeal packets, cereal or granola bars, snack crackers (such as cheese or peanut butter crackers), individual servings of non-perishable fruit. Please provide what you can on the first Sunday of each month in the collection barrel or leave donations on the counter by the refrigerator in the church kitchen. Our guests appreciate your contributions.

## Neighbors in Need

You don't know what you have, as the song goes, until it's gone, or until you've experienced its lack. Like water in the desert. In the Exodus story, God's people are discovering that the world of the wilderness does not have water available at every step. It was a great idea to flee Pharaoh, and the desert seemed better than a life of slavery, but sometimes even the greatest ideas need a little help. For the Israelites, Moses' staff helps find water in an arid and desolate geography. If they're going to get to the promised land they will need to figure out how to get food and water. Sometimes, inspiration needs a boost to make its dream come true. In this case, the promised land is far away and they have a lot of territory yet to cover.

For all of us embarking on any journey, especially one begun by faith, there will come a moment when taking the next step will need a little help from some place other than ourselves. Have you ever had that experience? Perhaps your life seems to come to a halt and you don't know if your aspirations, or your security, or what you want for those you love is possible. In that moment, you are like the Israelites waiting for water in the desert. Everything stops as you search for something to slake your thirst.

Organizations and congregations can have the same experience. They coalesce around an idea, or partnership or a plan for their community and suddenly, they discover a world of reality – they discover that water is hard to find in the desert. Neighbors in Need is a program of the United Church of Christ that does just that for churches. They help burgeoning mission projects, especially those faithful and creative ideas designed to help reach out to the marginalized in our neighborhoods. Neighbors in Need supports programs made by churches like yours. Your money supports a fund that gives grant money to churches trying to build a sustainable bit of material hope in their neighborhoods.

When you give to Neighbors in Need it's like waving Moses' staff and watching water gush from a rock making flowers bloom in the sand and saving lives. It may seem outlandish to compare these grants to water in the desert, but it feels like that when you get one of them. Just ask the members of Open Table UCC in Mobile, Alabama. Their church has opened its doors every Saturday evening as a safe space for all LGBTQ teenagers in the Mobile area, no exceptions. Programming, movies, conversation and just plain welcome and hospitality for young people who may never have thought that a church would be a safe space for them. Keeping their doors open will be easier because they received a Grasstop grant from Neighbors in Need. Such a gift is indeed like water in the desert.

