



First Congregational United Church of Christ
Manhattan, Kansas

where God is still speaking.



Extravagant

Opportunity

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

33RD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME NOVEMBER 19, 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: Leslie Bell, Jim & Julie Appino

Sanctuary Flowers: TBA

Fellowship Hour: Harvest Potluck

Word for Children: Leo Schell

Reading Scripture: Jim Mock

Grounds Care: TBA

WORDS OF WELCOME

PRELUDE

Robert Edwards, organ
Siegfried Karg-Elert

“Now Thank We All Our God”

CALLED IN GOD'S PRESENCE

One: For the bounty of the earth,

Many: **We give you thanks, O God**

And heed your call to care for the earth.

One: For food and water and shelter,

Many: **We give you thanks, O God,**

And heed your call to serve one another

One: For abundant and eternal life,

Many: **We give you thanks, O God,**

And heed your call to love you, and to love our neighbor as ourselves.

One: For all things in all seasons

Many: **We give you thanks, O God,**

As we enter this time of worship with praise and thanksgiving.

the Rev. Mindi Welton-Mitchell

✦ **HYMN 422** (*The New Century Hymnal located in pew backs.*)

“Come, O Thankful People, Come”

St. George's Windsor

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

✦ **PRAYER OF BROKENNESS/CONFESSION** (*Unison*)

God of Wholeness, we confess to you that we have wanted more than our share. We have taken what we thought we deserved. We have declared that we worked for it, we earned it, so it is ours alone. We have claimed authority to determine who is worthy of our aid. Forgive us for our selfishness. Forgive us for not honoring you as God, the Creator of the earth and all that is in it, and the Source of all abundance. Forgive us for ignoring our brothers and sisters in need. Call us into the work of justice for those who are hungry,

those who are without shelter, those who are without healthcare, those who suffer under the heavy weight of discrimination and prejudice. In the name of your Son Jesus, who came so that all might have life abundantly, we pray. Amen

(Silence is kept for individual reflection and confession)

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

Many: **Amen.**

✦ **WORDS OF ASSURANCE**

One: God made each of us, and each of us is fearfully and wonderfully made. God made the earth, and gave us each a place in it. God made all that is, and there is enough if we share what we have. Let us pray that we may serve one another with grateful hearts and share generously out of the resources that each of us has.

Many: **Let us be constantly mindful that, through God's love, there is more than enough to go around. 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

Leo Schell

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

Psalm 91 (*Page 681 in The New Century Hymnal* **read responsively**; all join in singing the refrain as indicated by the symbol **R.**)

Matthew 25: 14-30 (*New Testament page 26 in the pew Bible*)

2 Corinthians 9: 6-10 (*New Testament page 173 in the pew Bible*)

THE WORD IN MUSIC

Karen Large, Amanda Arrington, Paul Hunt

"Psalm 27"

Paul Hunt

SERMON

"The Stories We Tell"

Sue Zschoche

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

"Song Without Words"

Joseph Bonnet

✦ 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 prayer aloud. If you would prefer to have your prayer read by the worship leader, please fill out a blue card located in the pew back and place it in the offering plate.

*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: Jackie & Tod Kerstetter, David and Jordan; Sara K Kearns..

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 420** (*The New Century Hymnal located in pew backs.*)
“We Praise You, O God”

Kremser

**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 vocal line and a piano accompaniment line. The first system has the lyrics "Let us live in the light, let us love in the light, and" and the second system has "let the Spir - it do its work in us." The chords are: C, G/B, Am, Em, Em7, F, G9/F, C, C#dim7, Dm, Am/E, Dm7/F, F#dim, Gsus, G, Csus, C.

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

EXIT MUSIC

"Bossa Nova"

Paul Hunt

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, NOVEMBER 19

- 10:45 a.m. Service of the Word
- 12:00 p.m. Harvest Potluck
- 6:00 p.m. Second Helping

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 20

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

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 20

- 6:00 p.m. Young Adults Thanksgiving Potluck, Pioneer/Blachly Halls

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 22

OFFICES CLOSED

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

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 23 - THANKSGIVING

OFFICES CLOSED

No Taizé Service

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

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 24

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

NEXT SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 26

- 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



*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.



Announcement: Prayers of the Church cards have MOVED - If you would like to write your prayer request rather than share it aloud, you are always welcome to do so. The blue cards have been moved to the pew backs to make it easier to write your prayers. Just look for a BLUE card, write your request, and place it in the offering plate for the pastors to share during Prayers of the Church.

Harvest Meal Together – November 19 is our annual pot-luck meal together after church. Again this year, the Sherows are providing turkey; the Vitality committee will make dressing and gravy. You are invited to bring a dish to share, and please bring your own plate, cup, and silverware. If you can come before church to set up or stay afterward to clean up, you are very welcome. We need to have the area ready for Second Helping that evening.

Young Adults Thanksgiving Potluck

Tuesday, Nov. 21, 6:00-8:00 pm

Join together in Pioneer and Blachly Halls on Tuesday, Nov. 21 for a Young Adult Thanksgiving Potluck. No RSVP is necessary. Visitors welcome. For more information, please contact David Williams.

SAVE THE DATE & INVITE A FRIEND:

Advent and Christmas at First Congregational UCC

Sat., Dec. 2 - Advent Decorating with the Deacons, 9am

Dec. 3 - Dec. 17 - "Mind, Body, and Spirit" class for adults at 9:30am

Fri., Dec. 1 - World AIDS Day service, 7pm

Dec. 3 - First Sunday of Advent

Dec. 10 - brass ensemble, 10:45am; Ecumenical Blue Christmas, 7pm

Dec. 14 - Vigil to #EndGunViolence during Taize, 7pm

Dec. 17 - Christmas Pageant, 10:45am

Dec. 24 - Lessons and Carols, 10:45am; Christmas Eve worship at 7:00pm
(gathering music at 6:45pm)

Dec. 31 - Christmas Poetry Worship, 10:45am

More details and a printable Advent calendar at uccmanhattan.org/christmas.

Thanksgiving Day help needed – First Lutheran Church is serving a meal on Thanksgiving and is looking for people to help with preparation, serving, clean up, and hospitality starting at about 4:30 in the afternoon. Servers, clean-up and hospitality can come in at 5:30. If you can help, please contact Kathryn at evanoutreach@firstlutheranmanhattan.org or call 537-8532.

Decorate the church for Advent/Christmas Saturday, December 2, 9:00 a.m.

The Board of Deacons is seeking volunteers to help decorate the sanctuary, lobby and Pioneer/Blachly Halls for Advent/Christmas on Saturday, December 2 at 9:00 a.m. Many hands make light work, so even if you don't have a decorative flair, please join us for some fun and fellowship! Juice, donuts, coffee will be served.

Christmas Sacks – The Common Table would like to distribute Christmas sacks again this year to the neighbors who attend Common Table meals. One church will provide socks, another will provide caps, etc. First Congregational has been asked to provide unscented toiletries for the sacks. Body wash, shampoo, and deodorant would be particularly helpful, and we anticipate making up 50 sacks. The deadline is December 17, and there will be a collection bin in the church entry. Thanks for everything you do for Second Helping and Common Table!

***Thinking of You* post cards...** The “Thinking of You” cards located in the church pews are an awesome way to write a message to a member of our church family. It might be someone that you know is ill and needs some encouragement or someone you’ve missed seeing in church for awhile. All you have to do is write the person’s name on the front and the message on the back. Sign the card, then drop it in the offering plate and Sandy, our church secretary, will mail the card. It might brighten someone’s day beyond measure!

World AIDS Day – We are honored to host Manhattan's service for World AIDS Day again this year. The service will feature music, reflection, and a candlelighting ceremony. A great opportunity to slow down, remember those we love and light a candle in the darkness for HOPE. We'll have a brief reception with snacks and warm beverages after the service. Join us at 7:00pm on Friday, Dec. 1st in our sanctuary.

Special thanks to our guest artists today:

Dr. Karen Large, alto and C flute, and Amanda Arrington, piano.

PSALM 27: Verses 1, 5-6 (NIV)

One thing I ask of the Lord,
that I may dwell in His house
all the days of my life.
For in the day of trouble
He will hide me,
hide me in the shelter of His sacred tent,
and set me high upon a rock
above enemies who surround me;

I will sing.
I will dance.
I will make music.

One thing I ask of the Lord,
that I may dwell in His house
all the days of my life.



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.

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.

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.

Second Helping is in need of additional church hosts. The church host greets the guests, makes sure people have what they need, and generally monitors the progress of the meal. Volunteers will be paired with an experienced host until they feel comfortable with the position. The church hosts often get to know the guests over time, which is a privilege of the host position. If you would like to serve in this important role, please indicate your name and contact information on the line.

Ministers of Care. Do you have a heart for listening and holding sacred space? The Ministers of Care provide care and encourage the wider congregation to provide care for those in our congregation who are unable to regularly make it to worship, are in need of additional connection and support, or are going through a major life transition.

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.

continued next page

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!

Want to be a part of the ministry opportunities? Circle the paragraph that interests you and drop this paper in the collection plate with your name and contact information.

Name: _____

Phone number(s): _____

Email: _____

Extravagant Opportunity

In this familiar parable from Matthew, three guys get tested with their boss's money. It's a test of how to grow treasure. We are all given treasures in this life. How do we care for them? What are the expectations on us as caretakers of this holy and beautiful world? One of the ways the United Church of Christ takes care of our part of the world is by working toward bold ecumenical partnerships based around ministries we share. We do this in service of witness to the prayer of Jesus, "that they may all be one."

In the New York Conference of the United Church of Christ there is a brand new ecumenical partnership that matches the extravagant expectations made on the church of Jesus Christ to grow and not hide in the ground.

The Dutch who settled Manhattan in the 17th century brought their Reformed Church to North America. Today, there are four Collegiate churches of New York City, all members of the Reformed Church in America (RCA), and now, along with three other churches in the New York City area, they are affiliates of the United Church of Christ. This is truly a huge and extravagant ecumenical partnership. Based on a shared witness, an active social justice advocacy and an embrace of the LGBTQ community, this relationship announces an exciting turn in the expression of Christian unity.

The new relationship is not just a witness—it is also a working relationship. The seven RCA churches will make up a new association of the New York Conference—the Reformed Association. This Association was chartered on May 4, 2017.

Rev. David Gaewski, New York Conference Minister, said of this announcement that it was "... an important witness for large churches to make in the city—so now we have several of our largest churches in New York City being LGBTQ-affirming churches. It furthers the mission of the UCC and the New York Conference."

Think of the many things we'll be able to do together, think of the new voices we'll raise, think of the attention we can create toward justice and life-affirming ministries in the City of New York.

Much of the credit for the long leg work and dialogue that took place to make this happen by a unanimous vote goes to former UCC Communications Director, Reverend Bob Chase, whose organization, Intersections International, promotes peace and ecumenical dialogue.



8 1/2" x 14" UCC SUNDAY BULLETIN SERVICE

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