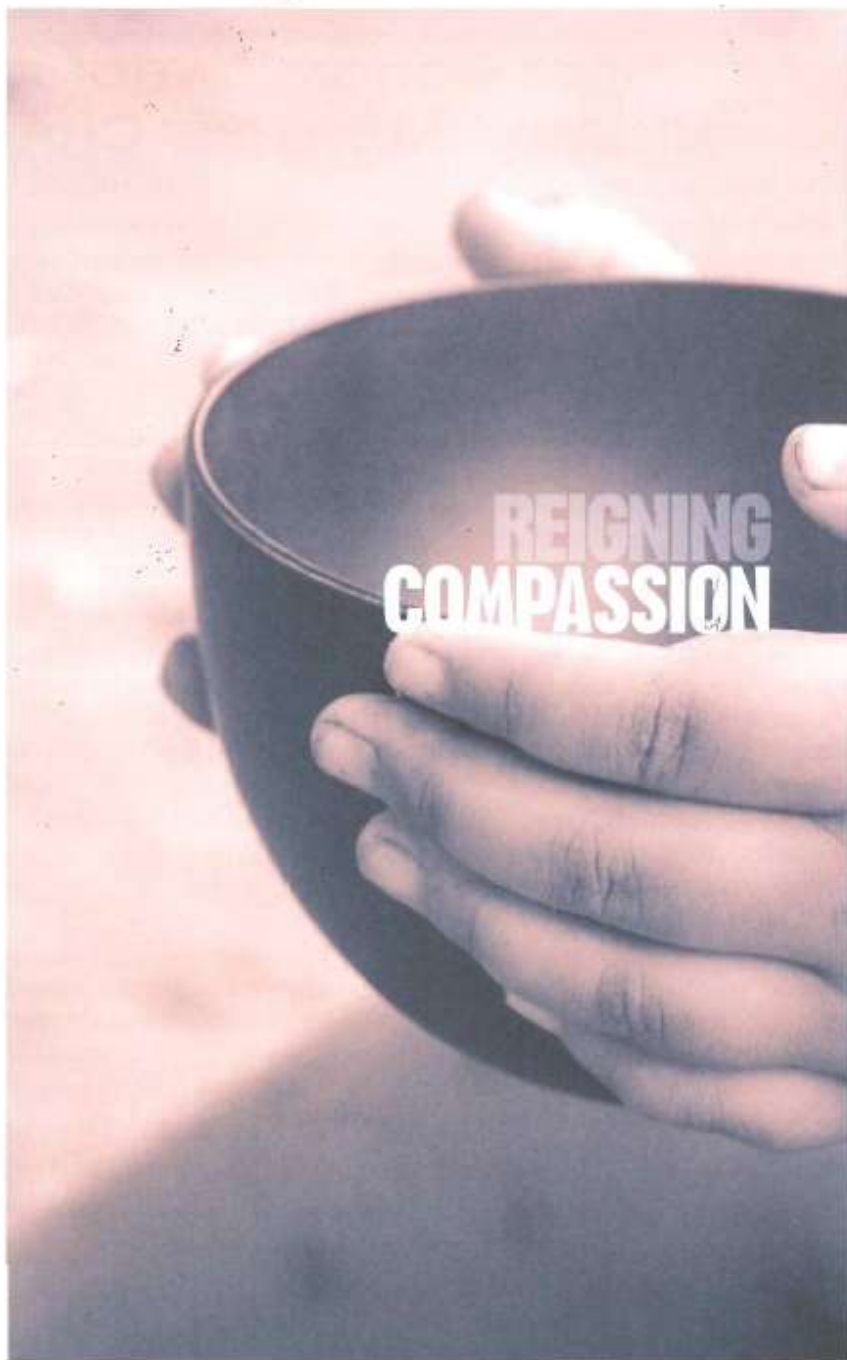




First Congregational United Church of Christ
Manhattan, Kansas

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

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

THE REIGN OF CHRIST NOVEMBER 26, 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: Martha & Mike Miller

Sanctuary Flowers: TBA

Fellowship Hour: Jonathan Mertz

Word for Children: Katrina Lewison

Reading Scripture: Leslie Bell

Grounds Care: TBA

WORDS OF WELCOME

PRELUDE

Mary Ellen Sutton, organ
Johnson

“Now Thank We All Our God”

CALLED IN GOD'S PRESENCE

One: Around the world this day, the universal Church celebrates the “The Reign of Christ.” Christ Jesus, friend of the poor, the meek and the merciful, has been enthroned above all authority and power in this world and in the world that is to come.

Many: **Make a joyful noise to God, all the earth,
serve our God with gladness
come into his presence with singing.**

One: God has placed everything under Christ’s wounded feet; appointed the one who wore a crown of thorns as the supreme head of the Church.

Many: **Enter God’s gates with thanksgiving,
come into her courts with praise.**

Give thanks and praise the One whose name is Love!

Adapted from Bruce Pewter and based on Psalm 100.

✦ **HYMN 304** (*The New Century Hymnal located in pew backs.*)

“All Hail the Power of Jesus’ Name”

Coronation

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

✦ **AFFIRMATION OF FAITH** *UCC Statement of Faith in the form of a doxology*

All:: **We believe in you, O God, Eternal Spirit,
God of our Savior Jesus Christ and our God,
and to your deeds we testify:**

**You call the worlds into being,
create persons in your own image,
and set before each one the ways of life and death.**

You seek in holy love to save all people from aimlessness and sin.

You judge people and nations by your righteous will
declared through prophets and apostles.

In Jesus Christ, the man of Nazareth,
our crucified and risen Savior,

you have come to us and shared our common lot,
conquering sin and death and reconciling the world to yourself.

You bestow upon us your Holy Spirit,
creating and renewing the church of Jesus Christ,
binding in covenant faithful people of all ages, tongues and races.

You call us into your church
to accept the cost and joy of discipleship,
to be your servants in the service of others,
to proclaim the gospel to all the world
and resist the powers of evil,
to share in Christ's baptism and eat at his table,
to join him in his passion and victory.

You promise to all who trust you
forgiveness of sins and fullness of grace,
courage in the struggle for justice and peace,
your presence in trial and rejoicing,
and eternal life in your realm which has no end.

Blessing and honor, glory and power be unto you. Amen.

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

Katrina Lewison

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 100 (*Page 688 in The New Century Hymnal **read responsively**; all join in singing the refrain as indicated by the symbol **R**.*)

Matthew 25:31-46 (*New Testament page 27 in the pew Bible*)

Ephesians 1:15-23 (*New Testament page 181 in the pew Bible*)

THE WORD IN MUSIC

"When Morning Gilds the Skies"

Chancel Choir
Donald Busarow

SERMON

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

"O Jesus, King Most Wonderful"

Culli

✦ 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: Sophia and Patrick Kenney-Tolentino, Deane Lehmann, Jake Meyer, Jeff Watson.

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 44** (*The New Century Hymnal located in pew backs.*)
"Beautiful Jesus"

Schonster Herr Jesu

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

CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

✦ **CONGREGATIONAL CHORAL BENEDICTION**

(Sung two times)

“Let Us Live in the Light”

The image shows a musical score for the song "Let Us Live in the Light". It consists of two systems of music, each with a treble and bass staff. 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.



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.

THIS WEEK AT A GLANCE

THIS SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 26

10:45 a.m. Service of the Word

12:00 p.m. Fellowship Hour

6:00 p.m. Second Helping

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 27

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

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 29

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

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 30

7:00 p.m. Taizé Service, Pioneer Hall

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

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 1

7:00 p.m. World AIDS Day Service, Sanctuary

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

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 2

9:00 a.m. Decorate with the Deacons

NEXT SUNDAY, DECEMBER 3

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



*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.

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.

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 is 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!

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.

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.

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: _____

Reigning Compassion

In 1953, the Daily Worker published a “wanted” poster. It showed a sketch of a man with long hair and a beard. The name under the face was “Jesus Christ.” And under that was printed,

“Wanted—for sedition, Criminal Anarchy, Vagrancy and conspiring to overthrow the established government. Dresses poorly, said to be a carpenter by trade, ill-nourished, has visionary ideas, associates with common working people, the unemployed and bums. Alien—believed to be a Jew.”

In 1971 two Pittsburgh shopkeepers posted a copy of that poster on their windows and were charged with blasphemy under a statute enacted in 1794. The County prosecutor in the case asked that the charges be dropped. They were dropped, and that ended prosecutions for blasphemy in the United States.

The Jesus the poster describes infers a message very like the one in today’s Gospel lesson. It’s a message that says what we do to the least of humanity, we do to Jesus. Being an advocate for those who are hungry, and thirsty, and sick and in prison is the very heart of the Gospel. Rather than a catechism listing right beliefs about Jesus, it more often offers a vision of a life that is possible for us—a life of being wholly present and committed to a just and joyful life for all. One of the charges against Jesus at the end of his life was, as written in John’s Gospel, “Blasphemy.” Perhaps being an advocate for those who are excluded and marginalized is a kind of blasphemy to those in power. A blasphemy in service to justice.

There is a seminary scholarship fund that supports ministers who model that understanding of Jesus as one who advocated for justice and have proven a history of leadership through their service to the church and the world. The scholarship is funded by the United Black Christians for African-American seminary students in their second or third year who are in care in a UCC Conference or Association. Named in honor of Rev. Dr. Joseph Henry Evans, the third president and first Black president of the UCC, the fund was established in 2009 in covenant with the UCC’s Local Church Ministries.

Remembering how important the Black church has been for the survival and community support for African-Americans in our country, the United Black Christians are organized to assure the continued support and growth of that church, and keeping those voices in service to those on the margins alive and well in our pulpits.

If you want to support that fund, or if you know of a ministry student who would be a likely candidate, email scholarships@ucc.org.



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

Bulletin network and backpage stories copyright © 2017 United Church of Christ