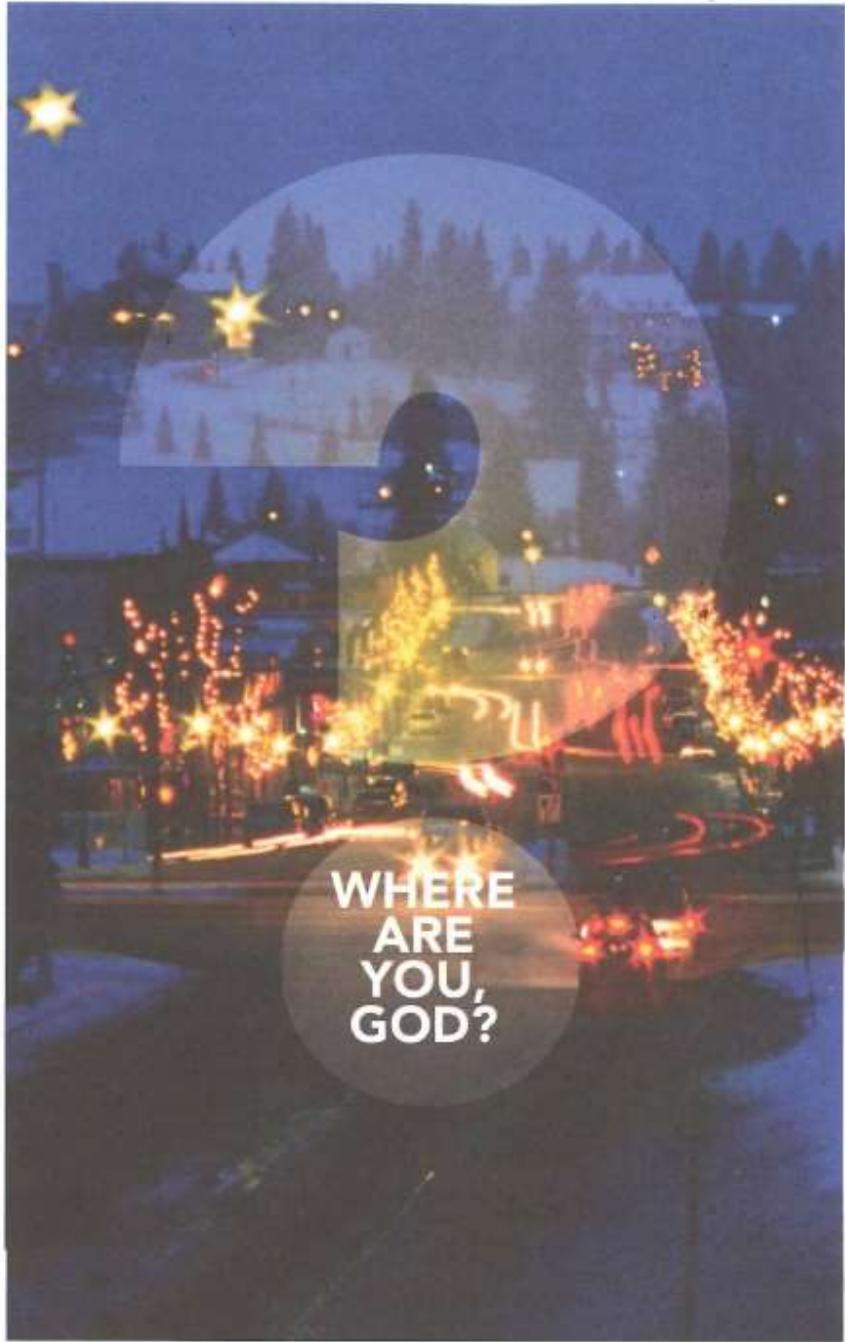




First Congregational United Church of Christ
Manhattan, Kansas

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 FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT DECEMBER 3, 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: Mackenzie Lechlitner, Brent Maner

Sanctuary Flowers: poinsettias

Fellowship Hour: Lewison Family

Word for Children: Pastor Caela

Reading Scripture: Paul Hunt

Grounds Care: Dave Manning

Communion Servers: TBA

WORDS OF WELCOME

PRELUDE

“Come, Savior of the Nations”

Mary Ellen Sutton, organ
Bach

LITANY OF THE ADVENT WREATH

One: hope

Many: **like a seed
buried deep within the earth; hidden**

One: covered by layers, disappointment, struggle pain; buried yet stretching,
growing and becoming.

Many: **hope**

One: like a seed
becoming new life.

Many: **we light a candle for hope.**

"hope in the bleak midwinter" by Katherine Hawker

Lighting of the Advent Wreath and Reflection

Stephanie and Mike Swank,
Sam Kinderknecht, Dean Kindernecht, Joshua Swank

Congregational Choral Response

(Sung to the tune of "We Three Kings")

In the midst of suff'ring and fear, good news for the world to hear:

Trust, and wait, and live by faith; the Reign of God draws near.

O come, rejoice, prepare a way! Christ is coming, watch and pray!

Candles burning, spirits yearning: Hope springs in our hearts today.

Text: Adapted from Sara Olson Dean, 2014

Tune: KINGS OF ORIENT, John Henry Hopkins, Jr., 1857

ADVENT PRAYER OF BEGINNING (UNISON)

Holy One,

As we begin our Advent pilgrimage, grant us the courage to hope.

Hope for your presence,

Hope for your peace,

Hope for your promise.

Amen.

Katherine Hawker

✦ **HYMN 103** (*The New Century Hymnal located in pew backs.*)

“Watcher, Tell Us of the Night”

Aberystwyth

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

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.

ADVENT WAITING

We wait in silence and prepare our hearts to receive the gifts God offers to us this day.

SCRIPTURE LESSONS

Paul Hunt

Isaiah 64:1-9 (Old Testament page 658 in the pew Bible)

THE WORD IN MUSIC

"How Lovely are the Messengers"

Chancel Choir
Felix Medelsohn

SERMON

"The Calm Before the Welcome"

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

"Deck Thyself, My Soul, With Gladness"

Reger

✦ DOXOLOGY (*Hymn 128 "In the Bleak Midwinter" v. 4*)

What can I offer, poor as I am?

If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb.

If I were a wise one, I would do my part;

But what can I offer: all my heart.

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

One: God's Banquet is coming. The time we await when all will gather from North, East, West and South.

Many: **A banquet where the rich and powerful will sit with the weak and poverty-stricken. A table where young and old will learn from each other. A time when all will sit together in peace, "and the wolf will lie down with the lamb".**

One: Here at this table we get a foretaste of God's banquet. All who wish to feast together are welcome to come to the table. Come and taste the grace eternal, come and see that God is good.

Many: **Come, let us sing praise and thanksgiving together.**

Adapted from Gord Waldie

GREAT PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Cantor will sing verses, people will respond:

Forever and forever.

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 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.***

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** (*See page 9*)
"Star Child"

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

CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

One: Be people of hope.

Many: **Let hope live in your heart and share the hope of Christ with all you meet.**

One: Share hope by noticing someone else's humanity.

Many: **Share hope by listening to someone's story.**

One: Share hope by praying for our world.

Many: **In this Advent season, we need to see, feel, and share hope.**

One: As you go out into the wonder of God's creations, share hope with those you meet.

Many: **Amen.**

From LiturgyLink.net

✦ CONGREGATIONAL CHORAL BENEDICTION

“All Earth is Waiting” (*Hymn 121 v. 1 and 3*)

All earth is waiting to see the Promised One,
and open furrows, the sowing of our God.

All the world, bound and struggling, seeks true liberty;
it cries out for justice and searches for the truth.

Mountains and valleys will have to be made plain;
open new highways, new highways for our God,
Who is now coming closer, so come all and see,
and open the door ways as wide as wide can be.



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 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.

Star-Child

420

D A Bm F#m

1 Star - Child, earth - Child, go - be - tween of God,
 2 Street child, beat child, no place left to go,
 3 Grown child, old child, mem - 'ry full of years,
 4 Spared child, spoiled child, hav - ing, want - ing more,
 5 Hope - for - peace Child, God's stu - pen - dous sign,

Em D G A

love Child, Christ Child, heav - en's light - ning rod:
 hurt child, used child, no one wants to know:
 sad child, lost child, sto - ry told in tears:
 wise child, faith child, know - ing joy in store:
 down - to - earth Child, Star of stars that shine:

Refrain
 D A Bm A D

this year, this year let the day ar - rive when

G D G Asus4 A D

Christ - mas comes for ev - ery - one, ev - ery - one a - live!

THIS WEEK AT A GLANCE

THIS 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
- 4:00 p.m. Civil Disobedience Narratives, Andover Hall
- 6:00 p.m. Second Helping

MONDAY, DECEMBER 4

- 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, DECEMBER 5

- 7:00 p.m. Kappa Sigma Fraternity Holiday dinner, Pioneer Hall

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 6

- 11:30 a.m. Lunch Bunch @La Fiesta
- 6:00 p.m. Board of Deacons meeting, Conference Room
- 7:00 p.m. Turning Point AA meeting, Andover Hall

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 7

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

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 8

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

NEXT SUNDAY, DECEMBER 10

- 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
- 7:00 p.m. Ecumenical blue Christmas, Sanctuary



*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.

Civil Disobedience Narratives – Are you excited and/or curious about the recent resistance actions in DC? Join Rachel Shivers, Carol Sevin, and Mark Nelson in Andover Hall this afternoon at 4pm to hear and share stories, ask questions, gain insights and find out about how to join in the upcoming civil disobedience actions in DC (Dec 4-7). For more information contact Carol Sevin or go to <https://www.facebook.com/LiveDieKS/>

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!

Lunch Bunch December 6 – We join together in an opportunity to get to know one another. Wednesday, December 6 at **La Fiesta** (Bluehills Shopping Center). 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.net.)



SAVE THE DATE & INVITE A FRIEND: Advent and Christmas at First Congregational UCC

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

Dec. 3 - Civil Disobedience Narratives, 4pm

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.

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.

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.

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 next page

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: _____

Where Are You, God?

How do we know when God is with us? It would be nice to have a glow stick that pulsed more brightly the closer God was, or let us know when prayers were being listened to, and, best of all, a return text that said, "Got it. Help is on the way!" But that isn't how it works. And, as much we want prayers to be a request for compassionate favors, they are not. Every person who is prayed for doesn't recover from cancer and everything lost is not always found. So, how do we know that God is present, that Holy possibility is genuine and we're not alone on this journey of breath and body and consciousness?

Psalm 80 is concerned with ancient Israel and may have been written when Jerusalem was under siege by Babylon. It reflects a nation feeling abandoned. What they want is a little victory. Because, after all, if God is on our side, they would say, wouldn't we be winning? Is "winning" the box to tick off when ascertaining the presence of God? Maybe not.

Peace United Church of Christ in Duluth, Minnesota, has this quote on their website:

"A Christian fellowship lives and exists by the intercession of its members for one another, or it collapses. I can no longer condemn or hate a brother for whom I pray, no matter how much trouble he causes me. His face that hitherto may have been strange and intolerable to me, is transformed in intercession into the countenance of a brother for whom Christ died, the face of a forgiven sinner."

Dietrich Bonhoeffer

For the people of Peace UCC, prayer has something to do with building shared bonds and nurturing spiritual growth among their congregants as they develop small groups and shared ministries. It opens relationships and transforms them.

Our world could use a little opening up and transforming. If change begins with us then how we pray is a good place to start. Prayer is at work when it changes us. Advent is the season to expect God's presence and look forward to the birth of something new and long-awaited. Perhaps we could pray for our own transformation. Pray that your own heart is opened to more compassion and let that desire for more love and more understanding fill your days as we anticipate together the Christmas sign—a baby born in the heart of a world longing for release from fear and prejudice. A world where people like us long for a clear path to the heart of justice for all people and love is all in all.



UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST
God is still speaking.