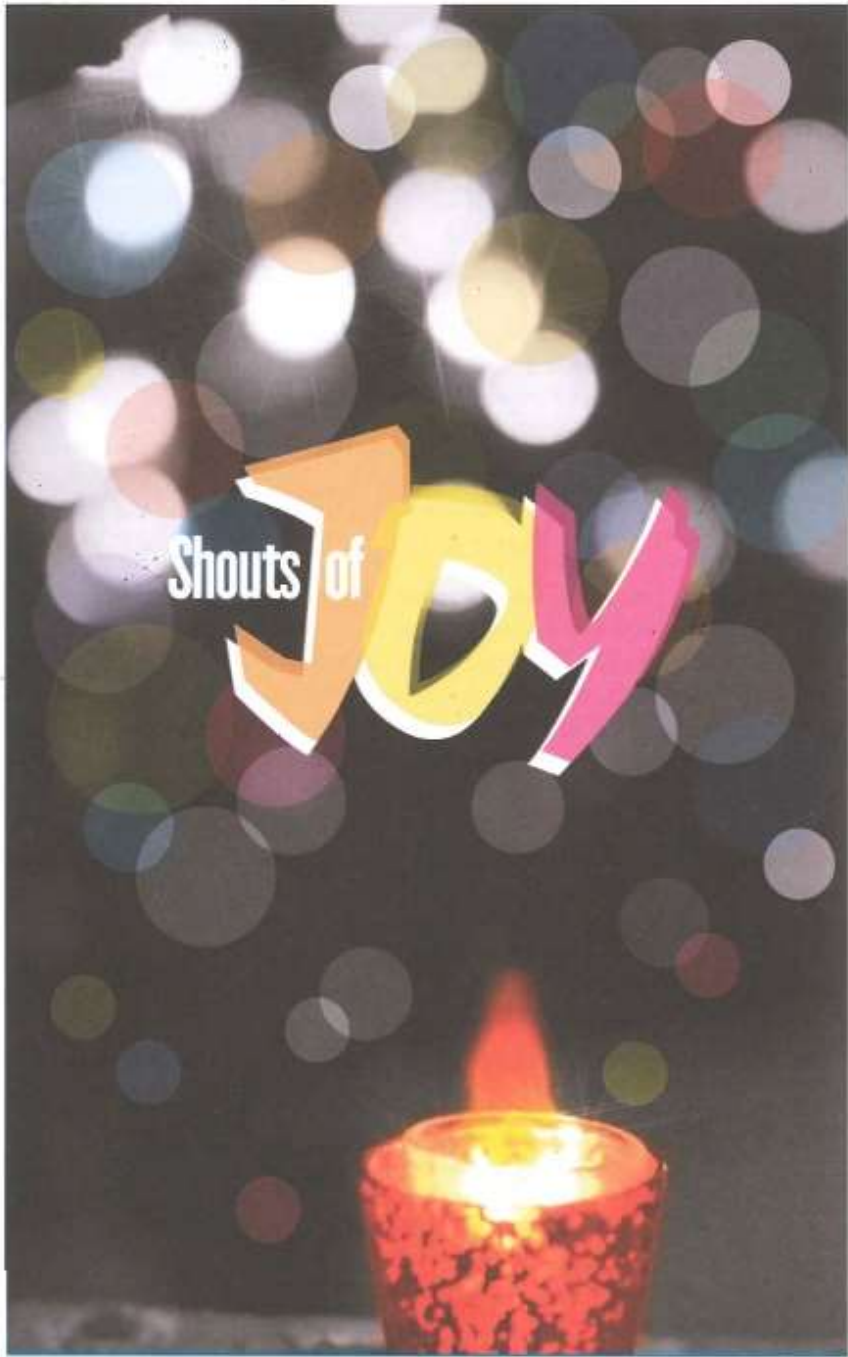




First Congregational United Church of Christ
Manhattan, Kansas

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 THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT DECEMBER 17, 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: Lisa Tatonetti, Jennifer Edwards

Sanctuary Flowers: poinsettias

Fellowship Hour: Christmas Cookie Party

Reading Scripture: Brent Maner

Grounds Care: Brent Maner

WORDS OF WELCOME

PRELUDE

"Lo, How a Rose ere Bloometh"

Robert Edwards, organ
Johannes Brahms

LITANY OF THE ADVENT WREATH

One: joy

Many: **is found in the moment
when the tables turn**

One: and the veil of denial is lifted displaying vulnerability and fear,
colliding with hope and promise, mingling together.

Many: **a tingle
growing warm,
lurching forward**

One: is joy.

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

"joy as transformation" by Katherine Hawker

Lighting of the Advent Wreath and Reflection

Gayle and Rick Doll

Congregational Choral Response

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

Thus says God, Creator of all: "You are mine, and you I have called.

Do not fear, for I am near; in love I will gather all."

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

Candles burning, spirits yearning: Joy shall be our song today.

Text: Adapted from Sara Olson Dean, 2014

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

Advent Prayer of Beginning (Unison)

Holy One,

**In the height of our Advent walk, grant us the courage to experience
joy.**

Joy in the face of apathy,

Joy in the face of sorrow,

Joy in the face of uncertainty.

Amen.

Katherine Hawker

✦ **HYMN 109** (*The New Century Hymnal located in pew backs.*)

“With Joy Draw Water”

St. Columba

✦ *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.

BELL CHOIR

David Kerstetter, Elsa Lewison, Marlena Lewison,
Sophie Rolles, Delaney Saucier, Holly Tross, Maitland Wood

“O Come, O Come Emmanuel”

“Away in the Manger”

 LISTENING

for our Still-speaking God

ADVENT WAITING

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

SCRIPTURE LESSONS

Brent Maner

Psalm 126 (*Page 707 in The New Century Hymnal **read responsively**; all join in singing the refrain as indicated by the symbol **R**.*)

Luke 1:46b-55 (*New Testament page 54 in the pew Bible*)

✦ **HYMN 105** (*The New Century Hymnal located in pew backs.*)

“Gentle Joseph, Joseph Dear”

Joseph Lieber, Joseph Mein

THE WORD FROM CHILDREN

Eliot Eiselein Marlana Lewison Joshua Swank
David Kerstetter Sophie Rolles Holly Tross
Jordan Kerstetter Delaney Saucier Maitland Wood
Elsa Lewison Liam Saucier Ogden Wood
Ida Lewison

RESPONDING

in hope and thanksgiving

MISSION MOMENT: THE CHRISTMAS FUND

Sue Zschoche

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

“Silent Night”

Marlana Lewison, Elsa Lewison, Ida Lewison

“Deck the Halls”

Gabe Tross, Craig Weston

✦ **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

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 110** *(The New Century Hymnal located in pew backs.)*

“Now Bless the God of Israel”

Forest Green

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

CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

One: Be people of joy.

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

One: Share joy by seeing the good in each other.

Many: **Share joy by remembering good times and hoping for good times to come.**

One: Share joy by praying for our world.

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

One: As you go out into the wonder of God’s creations, share joy, peace and hope with those we 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.

Special thanks for their assistance with the pageant and bell choir:

Bob Edwards, Katrina Lewison, Tyler Lewison,
Tai Amri Spann-Wilson, Mike Swank, Stephanie Swank,
and Tracey Weston

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, DECEMBER 17 – CHRISTMAS PAGEANT

- 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

MONDAY, DECEMBER 18

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

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 20

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

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 21

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

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 22

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

NEXT SUNDAY, DECEMBER 24 – LESSONS AND CAROLS

- 8:30 a.m. Choir Rehearsal
- 10:45 a.m. Service of the Word
Nursery Closed
- 12:00 p.m. Fellowship Hour
- 6:00 p.m. Second Helping
- 6:45 p.m. Christmas Eve Gathering Music
- 7:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Service



*Join us on Facebook at
[facebook.com/uccmanhattanks](https://www.facebook.com/uccmanhattanks)*

MONDAY, DECEMBER 25 – MONDAY, JANUARY 1: OFFICE CLOSED

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.



Christmas Eve is a time for singing carols by candlelight and remembering the gift that came to us in a tiny town all those years ago. Join us at 7:00 p.m. on December 24th as we celebrate the birth of Christ by hearing the story once again and sharing Communion at Christ's table (open to all!). People of all ages are welcome at this service. Pre service music will begin at 6:45pm. (Note: we will still be gathering for worship on Sunday morning at 10:45 a.m. Please join us for Lessons and Carols!)

Poetry and Pajamas - Christmas Sunday is Dec. 31st. The service will be centered around an offering of Christmas Poetry. Children are invited to come to worship in their pajamas on this low-key, comfy morning.

The Chrismon Tree – The tree in Pioneer Hall is decorated with ornaments called Chrismons that were created by Women's Fellowship in 1996. A Lutheran Church in Virginia copyrighted the word "Chrismon" as a combination of "Christ" and "monogram". The lights are white and the ornaments are white and gold to symbolize the holiness of Christ and gold for the royalty of Christ. How many different symbols can you count?

Leadership Kick-Off for 2018 Board/Committee Members - Mark your calendars for the January Leadership Kickoff Dinner on Wednesday, January 10 at 6:00 pm. Caela will provide committee informational materials and words of support. Following the dinner groups will meet for their regularly scheduled January meeting. We will be serving soup, bread, salad and dessert. If you would like to help provide a soup, salad or dessert, contact Julie Hunt. Please RSVP to Julie Hunt so she has an approximate count for dinner. I hope you will join us!

The nursery will be closed on Dec. 24th during both services. Children of all ages are welcome in worship and let's all be on the lookout for caregivers who might need a helping hand or encouraging smile that day. KidsWorship will still be offered on the morning of the 24th.

Advent and Christmas at First Congregational UCC

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

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!

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: _____

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

December 17, 2017

Psalm 126 or Luke 1:47-55

Shouts of Joy

We love movies where the downtrodden and beaten and dismissed character in a story finally gets their due and all the evil in the narrative gets punished. The girl who is bullied; the poor family who saves their neighborhood; the basketball team nobody thinks will win does win; the orphan boy forced to live under the stairs who becomes a mighty wizard—these are all the kinds of stories that give us a buzz and engender hope. They reorder expectations about who is likely to have power in this world. This is the story of Jesus. A story that shines a light on the powerless of this world. Jesus, born to a mother who felt lifted-up by her pregnancy and whose expectations were that her child would be remarkable.

All mothers should feel that joy of expectation for their children. But there is a hard truth in the world as it is – not every child has the same opportunity or privilege. Some children are born in a world of misery and hunger, some have no access to education, some are born with a skin color that will mean that they will have to work twice as hard to get what others take for granted. This is a hard truth to digest. We depend on our belief in the basic fairness of the world.

The question for faithful people is how does God work in this world for justice and fairness? One could say that in Genesis God gave us the world and its resources are at our disposal. What we have we done with that gift? How have we loved this world into being?

The young pregnant Mary believes that God will fix and reorder injustice. What can churches do to spread her joy to all children?

It is not necessary to be a big church to spread one's love of children into the world. Mt. Cavalry Church, in Woodstock, Virginia, has only 5-7 people in worship on a Sunday, but their members share their love by making special small quilts for children in their county's shelters. Farther north, in Gloversville, New York, the First Congregational UCC houses a program called CAPTAIN (Community Action for Parents, Teens and Interested Neighbors). It provides food, life skill training, support, homework help and a place to go for any teen or youth in the area. FCC Gloversville has only 40 in worship.

There is a mission field around your church. In it teenagers languish without support, children need a blanket and all young mothers need hope and joy. What can you do with what you have? What joy can you share, in this season of giving, to a world that longs to show its love for all God's children?



BUL0203

8 1/2" x 14" UCC SUNDAY BULLETIN SERVICE
Bulletin artwork and backpage stories copyright © 2017 United Church of Christ