



*Confirmed in Love*

**APRIL 28, 2024, AT 10:45 A.M.**

**Welcome!** If you are worshiping 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 encourage you to sign in using our online connect card at [uccmanhattan.org/online](http://uccmanhattan.org/online). If you're worshiping with us in the sanctuary you can also sign in at either door, if you'd rather. Immediately following worship, we hope you'll join us for conversation or just stay put in the Zoom room if you're worshiping online. We look forward to greeting you there. If you have questions, please ask.

**If you need accommodations**, 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. Diaper changing stations are located in both restrooms on the main floor.

**Children are welcome in worship** (and we know they may need to wiggle!). Please reach out to Brandy McDonald ([brandy@uccmanhattan.org](mailto:brandy@uccmanhattan.org)) if you have questions about children's ministries. You may visit our website for information about Sunday School for children and adults during the school year.

**WiFi password for *FCUCC* guest:**

**YouAreLoved**

*Our service is recorded so we can share it with those who may have missed worship today. If you are present in the sanctuary, you may be included in this recording. Please contact one of the pastors for more information.*

***---- Assisting in Today's Worship ----***

***Sanctuary Greeter:*** Brent Maner  
***Reading Scripture:*** Ogden Wood  
***Zoom Sharer:*** TBA

***Word for Children:*** Pastor Caela  
***Fellowship Host:*** Board of Christian Ed  
***Tech Team:*** Janet George, Carol Sevin

**GATHERING MUSIC**

Tower Chimes

**WELCOME**

**CENTERING MUSIC**

“Sonata IV, Allegretto”

Mary Ellen Sutton, organ  
Mendelssohn

**REFLECTION ON GATHERING**

by Harper Chandler

**CALLED INTO GOD'S PRESENCE**

*One:* We come as seekers,

*Many:* **Unsure of what we seek.**

*One:* We come as followers,

*Many:* **Not understanding the One we follow.**

*One:* We come to worship,

*Many:* **Even though we don't know how.**

*One:* Holy One, by your grace,

Meet us where we are.

*Many:* **Meet us here. Meet us now. Amen.**

*Joanna Harader, Spacious Faith*

✦ **HYMN 351** (*The New Century Hymnal located in pew backs.*)

**“I Was There to Hear Your Borning Cry”**

*Borning Cry*

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

**THE ACT OF CONFIRMATION**

**Edward Beach-Hochman**

**Eliot James Eiselein**

**Laney P. McDonald**

**Andrew M. Moreau**

**Remi Stock**

**Ogden M. S. Wood**

*Pastor:* ...and so we ask you, those who seek membership in this congregation, will you join with us as we covenant with God and with one another...

*Congregation:* **to seek the mind of Christ, to be open to the new light and truth God has for us, to bear each other's burdens and share each other's**

joys, to pray for each other, to serve in the name of Christ, to give to this church and its mission, and to take our stand for justice and peace, confident God's concern embraces the whole world?

*Pastor:* If so, please say, "I will, with God's help."

*(please extend a hand in blessing and speak these words of blessing with us)*

**God of love, you show your continual love through the water of baptism and the joyful act of confirmation into Christ's church. Increase in them the gifts of your Holy Spirit. Grant love for others, joy in serving you, peace in disagreement, fortitude in suffering, kindness toward all people, goodness in evil times, faithfulness in temptation, gentleness in the face of opposition, temperance in all things. Strengthen them for their ministry in the world through Jesus Christ our Savior. 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." If you are worshiping online, you can use the chat feature in Zoom. Please be mindful of other people's preferences about physical contact. If you prefer not to shake hands, you can let others around you know by pressing your palms together in front of your heart (as if in prayer).*

### ✦ ACT OF PRAISE

*(all join in singing Hymn #236)*

"Halleluja"

Halle, halle, halleluja.

Halle, halle, halleluja.

Halle, halle, halleluja.

Halle, halle, halleluja.

## LISTENING

*for our Still-speaking God*

### WORD FOR CHILDREN

Pastor Caela

*Children ages 3-1st grade are welcome to attend Kids Worship after the Word for Children. Children are walked up by staff/volunteer.*

## SCRIPTURE LESSON

Ogden Wood

Isaiah 61:1-4 (*First Testament page 655 in the pew Bible*)

Philippians 4:4-9 (*Second Testament page 187 in the pew Bible*)

## REFLECTION ON LISTENING

Laney McDonald

## RESPONDING

*in hope and thanksgiving*

### OFFERTORY SENTENCE

*Prefer to make an electronic contribution? Scan the QR Code at right with the camera on your smartphone to be taken directly to our donate page or visit [uccmanhattan.org/giving](http://uccmanhattan.org/giving) to learn how to set up automatic giving. Thank you for being a part of our ministry.*



### OFFERTORY

*"A Clare Benediction"*

Choir  
John Rutter

### ✦ 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.**

## REFLECTION ON RESPONDING

Eliot Eiselein

### PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

*You are invited to type your prayers into the chat.*

*We respond: Merciful God....**hear our prayer.***

### PRAYER OF JESUS (*said in unison*)

*You are invited to use whatever name for God you find most meaningful (Mother, Father, Creator, God, Friend, Holy One, etc.). Together, our names for God will create a beautiful chorus reaching out to the Holy.*

**Mother of us all,  
who dwells within and beyond,  
Sacred is your name.  
May your holy vision for collective flourishing  
come to fruition among us.**

May your dreams of justice, love, compassion, and connection be enfolded on earth.  
Provide us today with what we need to be nourished in body, soul, and heart.  
Forgive us for the harm we cause as we seek to forgive those who have harmed us.  
Lead us away from everything that destroys and liberate us from the hands of evil.  
For you are the ultimate source of hope.  
Your power-with exceeds all power-over.  
Your presence incites eternal wonder.  
All praise to you, our comfort and strength.  
Amen.

*This version of the prayer is by Rev. M Jade Kaiser, enfolded.*

## **GOING FORTH**

*to be messengers of good news*

✦ **HYMN 252** (*The New Century Hymnal located in pew books.*)  
"Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us"

*Bradbury*

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

*New to First Congregational? We'd love to meet you. Use the QR code at right to complete a Connect Card.*



**REFLECTION ON GOING FORTH**

Remi Stock

✦ **BENEDICTION & SABBATICAL RELEASE**

Lisa Tatonetti,  
Moderator Elect

*Leader:* Do you, the members and friends of First Congregational UCC release Pastor Caela into the renewing care of this time of sabbatical pilgrimage?

*Many:* **We do, with the help of God.**

*Leader:* Do you release her from the daily duties of pastoral care, so that she may rediscover the glory of God's vision for this ministry we share?

*Many:* **We do, with the help of God.**

*Leader:* In her absence, will you continue to care for our church, our programs,

our worship life, and each other?

*Many:* **Yes. We will be faithful to our commitments to this community.**

*Leader:* Do you, Pastor Caela, release this church from turning to you and depending on your ministry during the time of sabbatical? And do you offer your encouragement for our ongoing ministry here?

*Pastor:* I do, with the help of God.

*Pastor:* In our time apart, may you go in happiness.

May you go free from harm.

May you go in health and wellbeing.

May you go in peace.

Blessings on the journey ahead.

*Many:* **In our time apart, may you go in happiness.**

**May you go free from harm.**

**May you go in health and wellbeing.**

**May you go in peace.**

**Blessings on the journey ahead. Amen.**

## ✦ CONGREGATIONAL CHORAL BENEDICTION "Alleluia"

The musical notation is written on three staves in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The melody is simple and repetitive. The lyrics are: Al-le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, lu - ia. The first two staves each have three measures of music. The third staff has two measures of music, with the first measure marked 'To repeat' and the second measure marked 'Last time'.

Music: Jerry Sinclair, © 1972, Manna Music, Inc.; arr. by Betty Pulkingham

## POSTLUDE

"Petite Promenade"

Wood

Permission to print the music in this service obtained from One License with license #A-710121.

# **THIS WEEK AT A GLANCE**

## ***THIS SUNDAY, APRIL 28***

- 8:30 a.m. Choir Practice
- 9:30 a.m. Sunday School
- 10:45 a.m. Service of the Word
- 12:00 noon Fellowship Hour
- 6:00 p.m. Second Helping

## ***MONDAY, APRIL 29***

- 5:30 p.m. UFM Yoga Class, Blachly Room

## ***TUESDAY, APRIL 30***

- 11:30 a.m. Book Study, Zoom

## ***WEDNESDAY, MAY 1***

- 11:30 p.m. Lunch Bunch @ LongHorn Steakhouse
- 12:00 p.m. MOA Narcotics Anonymous meeting, Conference Room
- 5:15 p.m. Board of Deacons meeting, Zoom
- 5:30 p.m. Board of Christian Education, Zoom
- 7:00 p.m. Turning Point AA meeting, Blachly Room

## ***THURSDAY, MAY 2***

- 7:30 p.m. MOA Narcotics Anonymous meeting, Andover Hall

## ***FRIDAY, MAY 3***

- 7:30 p.m. MOA Narcotics Anonymous meeting, Andover Hall

## ***NEXT SUNDAY, MAY 5***

- 8:30 a.m. Choir Practice
- 9:30 a.m. Sunday School
- 10:45 a.m. Service of Word and Sacrament  
*Fill the Breadbasket*
- 12:00 noon 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](http://www.ksu.edu/ecm)





## Volunteers for Sunday, May 5

*Greeter:* Carolyn Hodgson

*Reading Scripture:* Jim Mock

*Word for Children:* Brandy McDonald

*Fellowship Host:* Kerri Keller

*Zoom Screen Sharer:* Jo, Jason, Henry Maseberg-Tomlinson

*Tech Team:* Jo, Jason, Henry Maseberg-Tomlinson

Visit  
[uccmanhattan.org/sign-ups](http://uccmanhattan.org/sign-ups)  
to volunteer.

### Generosity Spotlight – This week we give thanks for....

those who teach our adult education classes. Every week we are so fortunate to have the opportunity to gather around tables (actual tables and Zoomy ones, too) to talk about God, faith, the Bible. We nurture safe spaces for adults of all ages to ask big questions, tell funny stories, and connect more deeply to God and one another. This is only possible because many people in our congregation volunteer their time to lead us. A special shout out to Pastor Sue who volunteers her time to help guide the overall adult education program at our church AND teaches the weekly Tuesday class.

Thank you for Being the Church!

#### ***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.*

**Sabbatical Update** – Pastor Caela will be on sabbatical from May 1 through August 17. If you did not receive a special mailing from the church office with details about coverage during Caela's sabbath, please contact the church office to let us know you need a copy.

**Worship in the Park** – It's time for our annual Blessing of the Animals and Worship in the Park. Join us at (shady) Long's Park on Sunday, May 12 for this special service. We will gather for fellowship BEFORE the service rather than have a potluck after the service as we've done in previous years. Fellowship begins at 10:15 and worship will begin at 10:45.

Childcare staff will be on hand to care for young kids who want to explore the playground or the rest of the park.

Things to bring to the park:

- your own lawn chair, if you have one
- your pet (or stuffed animal!) for a blessing

\*\*\*If you have any questions about accessibility at the park, please let us know.

For those worshipping at home, please use the regular Zoom link. If you have an animal you'd like blessed at home, please reach out to Pastor Sue so she can arrange a visit.

NOTE: no Sunday School this week. Join us at the park before worship for donuts and coffee beginning at 10:15 a.m.

**Thinking of You** – Is there someone in our congregation that you haven't seen in a while and you'd like to let them know you're thinking of them? Consider dropping them a note using the green postcards in the pew backs. You can write your message and then the church office will address and stamp the card and get it in the mail. Please be sure to include YOUR name so they know who it's from! Just drop it in the offering plate any time.

MAY 19



CHRISTIAN

EDUCATION

SUNDAY



Honoring our Christian  
Educator and participants,  
and getting bibles to our  
outgoing 2nd graders!



**Lunch Bunch: May 1 @ LongHorn Steakhouse** – We join together in an opportunity to get to know one another, Wednesday, May 1 at LongHorn Steakhouse (505 Tuttle Creek Blvd). Everyone is welcome to join us for lunch at 11:30 a.m.



## TAKE TIME FOR TAIZÉ

Join us on the third Thursday of the month 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.

**April 28, 2024**  
**Fifth Sunday of Easter**  
**“Abiding in Love”**  
**John 15:1-8**

“We are aware that there has been increased violence against indigenous women and transgender persons. Our increased awareness of these issues that disproportionately affect women will impact our response as global advocates.” –Rev. Dr. Karen Georgia Thompson

On this Break the Silence Sunday, churches can raise their awareness of gender-based violence by participating in Thursdays in Black.

\*Thursdays in Black grew out of the World Council of Churches (WCC) Decade of Churches in Solidarity with Women (1988-1998), in which the stories of rape as a weapon of war, gender injustice, abuse, violence, and many tragedies that grow outward from such violence became all the more visible. But what also became visible was women’s resilience, agency, and personal efforts to resist such violations. Join Wider Church Ministries, and our partners, in the campaign by doing the following:

**Pause**

Pause for a moment of silence on Thursdays at noon your local time to remember and honor those who have died at the hand of sexualized or gender-based violence.

**Pray**

Pray with us:

We stand with invisible victims of sexual and gender-based violence.

We see you. We hear you. You are not forgotten.

**Post**

Post your prayers, photos, or inspirations on social media using the hashtags #ThursdaysinBlack, #UnitedChurchOfChrist, and tag us.

If you or someone you know is in an abusive relationship, please seek help immediately. You can call the 24-hour National Domestic Violence Hotline at 1-800-799-SAFE (7233).

[\\*https://www.ucc.org/what-we-do/wider-church-ministries/thursdays-in-black-campaign/](https://www.ucc.org/what-we-do/wider-church-ministries/thursdays-in-black-campaign/)



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The Rev. Caela Simmons Wood, Pastor  
Paul Hunt, Moderator  
Sue Zschoche, Pastoral Associate  
Brandy McDonald, Director of Children’s Ministries  
Sandy Nelson, Administrative Assistant

Gretchen Lewis, Music Coordinator  
Mary Ellen Sutton, Organist  
Alicia Santee-Davis, Pianist  
Brent Maner, Treasurer  
Jeff Keller, Financial Secretary  
The Rev. Christian Watkins, Campus Pastor