



FIRST CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST NEWSLETTER

Volume 59 Number 11

November 2015

Sunday School at 9:30 A.M.
Sunday Worship at 10:45 A.M.
Second Helping Dinner at 5:15 P.M.
Thursday Evening Taizé at 7:00 P.M.

700 Poyntz Avenue
Manhattan, Kansas 66502
telephone 785-537-7006
www.uccmanhattan.org

“To Everything There is a Season”

“Do not go gentle into that good night,
Old age should burn and rave at close of day;
Rage, rage against the dying of the light.”

So begins Dylan Thomas’s famous poem, published in 1951, just two short years before Thomas’s death. Thomas died shortly after his 39th birthday, on Nov. 9, 1953. He was never given the opportunity to grow old, like his father who was the inspiration for the poem.

When I was a younger person, I adored the fierceness of this poem. Raging against death seemed, to me, to be the way to go. After all, there is so very much to do and see and enjoy and love during our time on this planet. Now that I’m a little older (and hopefully wiser?) I’ve had the chance to watch many people approach death. Some do, indeed, rage against it with all their might. Others quietly slip into What’s Next. And others, still, are taken from us with no warning. There are billions of ways to die....the only thing we have in common is that we will all do it at some point in time.

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The Church is one of the few places in our culture where we talk openly and frankly about death. Our sacred texts are full of stories about death. We gather each month to commemorate the last meal of Jesus just before he died. We pray and sing at deathbeds. We gather to remember those who have passed. We shiver in the cold as we watch coffins lowered into frozen ground. We hear the story of the women who went to the tomb seeking Jesus's body only to find an incomprehensible surprise.

We've just passed the overly-commercialized celebration of Halloween. Long before it became a holiday about adult costume parties and kids eating sweets, Halloween had its roots in the Christian calendar. It was (and is) the first of a three-day holiday known as the Triduum of Allhallowtide. Halloween is a time to prepare for the celebration of All Saints' and All Souls' days. It is the time of the year when Christians around the world are meant to remember those who have died. The frivolity of Halloween itself is meant to be a break from the very serious and difficult work of remembering our mortality. As we dress up as ghouls and devils, monsters and zombies, we laugh in the face of Death, remembering the promise of Resurrection and the ultimate power of Goodness and Love that cannot be stopped.

This year on All Saints' Day we will pause and remember those who have been saints in our own lives. And then we will rush headlong into the holiday season...filled with family gatherings, which are often difficult for those who are missing faces around the table for the first time. In December, we will once again hold a Blue Christmas service for those who struggle with putting on a happy face during this season.

As the days grow shorter and the light dies, we notice the leaves dying around us. Some turn a brilliant orange overnight and fly to the ground. Others slowly, slowly turn brown and hang on for weeks before finally succumbing to the inevitability of gravity. And in every instance, we know that deep within the tree lies the promise and possibility of new life. Whether those leaves rage loudly or disappear with a whisper, they are only gone for a time. When spring comes, the leaves will return once again. To everything there is a season...and God goes with us throughout it all. Thanks be to God.

Pastor Caela

Sharing and Caring

Prayers and Concerns

- For more information please contact the church office at 785-53-7006 or office@uccmanhattan.org.

Helping

- **Need a ride to church?** Contact one of our transportation volunteers: Jim/Carolyn Hodgson, Bill Pallett, or Jeff Keller.
- **Home Communion Visits** The Deacons can bring communion to your home on the first Sunday of the month. Visits at other times can be arranged with the pastor.

E-MAIL PRAYER CHAIN – If you wish to be added to the First Congregational e-mail prayer chain, please contact office@uccmanhattan.org. It is a quick and easy way to stay up to date with your church family.



Lunch Bunch November 4



Join the Women of the Church for Lunch Bunch on Wednesday, November 4 at Pizza Ranch (near Menard's on Hayes Drive). It's not for women only—everyone is welcome to join us for lunch at 11:30 A.M. (See individual Lunch Bunch locations for the year by going to the church website at www.uccmanhattan.org and then clicking on Community Life/Events Calendar.)

Congregational Meeting Sunday, November 15

The proposed budget for 2016 and nominations for boards and committees will be presented at a congregational meeting on Sunday, Nov. 15. We hope you will join us for this important discussion. The meeting will take place after our worship service.

Happy Hour with the Pastor

Join Pastor Caela and friends from First Congregational at Powercat Sports Grill on Thursday, Nov. 19 at 5:00 p.m. You are welcome to enjoy a drink or an early supper....or just order a glass of water and come for the conversation.

November Mrunch

Our next Mrunch will be on Saturday, November 7th at 9:00 a.m. We'll be meeting at Andrea Chamberlain's house for coffee and a light breakfast. Childcare, provided by church nursery staff, will be available at the house. Mrunch is a time for mothers of elementary age kids and younger (even if you are just expecting) to come and enjoy a peaceful supportive environment with other mothers in the same season of life. For November's Mrunch we'll be focusing on gratitude, in preparation for Thanksgiving. For address information and/or if you have questions, please contact Andrea.

Ministry of the Decorative Scissors

The next retreat of the Ministry of the Decorative Scissors will be from 4:00 p.m. on Friday, November 13 until 7:00 p.m. on Saturday, November 14, in Andover Hall. Everyone is welcome. There are no guarantees that you will complete any projects, but you will have fun and meet delightful people. Come for an hour or for the whole time! Feel free to bring a snack to share. For more information, contact Sue Gerth.



Covenant Celebration Sunday, Nov. 15

You won't want to miss worship on Sunday, November 15th. We will be welcoming new members and reaffirming our covenantal commitments to one another during worship.

Fall Clean Up Day
Saturday, November 21st
beginning at 9:00 a.m.

Coffee and donuts provided.
Bring rakes if you've got them.
Kids are welcome.
The more hands the merrier!



Shared Communion and Thanksgiving Potluck with Bethel AME

Join us after worship on Sunday, Nov. 22 for shared communion with Bethel and our Thanksgiving Potluck. Our guests will join us in Pioneer-Blachly for a meal hosted by the Vitality & Outreach Committee. You are invited to bring a dish to share and turkey will be provided. More details to come.

“Trust in the Promise”

Stewardship Campaign 2015

A young child moves from training wheels, to pedaling with the help of a trusted adult, to confidently zooming around the neighborhood. There are bumps in the road, scraped knees, and the exhilarating feeling of getting it right from time to time. We too, have these experiences as we grow in our giving to make a difference in this world and community. Know that God journeys alongside us, cheering us and picking us up off the ground when we fall. The prophet Jeremiah wrote many centuries ago about God's plans for the people in his time and place...and we can hear God speaking those same words of compassion and hope to us today: "For surely I know the plans I have for you....to give you a future with hope." (Jeremiah 29:11)



Stewardship letters with pledge cards enclosed have been mailed to members and friends of First Congregational - UCC. Information is included about the many ways your donation is used to benefit this church and our larger community. As we grow and see more use of our church home, so grow the demands on care and maintenance. Don't forget, your pledge of financial support makes our ongoing mission possible.

Although Sunday, November 1, 2015, has been designated as Stewardship Sunday, pledge cards will be gratefully received at any time. They are also available in the church office. You can find more information about our Stewardship Campaign on our website under “Grow in Faith.”

Stewardship Committee members,

Alfred Cochran, Paul Hunt, Judy Willingham

Save the Date, Invite a Friend

Advent Events at First Congregational

Nov. 8 – Dec. 6 – Children rehearse for pageant at 9:30 a.m. each Sunday

Nov. 29 – Dec. 20 – “Music of the Season” adult Sunday School class led by David Wood

Sunday, Dec. 6 – Brass in worship

Sunday, Dec. 13 – Children’s Christmas pageant during worship

Sunday, Dec. 13 at 7:00 p.m. – Blue Christmas service, including Worldwide Compassionate Friends Candlelighting Service for those who have lost children

Sunday, Dec. 20 – Lessons and Carols during worship

Sunday, Dec. 24 at 7:00 p.m. – Christmas Eve worship

Poinsettias

The Advent season brings the opportunity for you to provide poinsettias in memory of or in honor of someone important to you as we decorate the church for Advent and Christmas.

The cost to donate Poinsettias is \$10.00 per plant.

Please complete the form below and return it to the church office with your check made out to “First Congregational UCC.”
700 Poyntz Ave., Manhattan KS 66502.



✂ -----

In Memory of: _____

In Honor of: _____

In Appreciation of: _____

Given by: _____

Youth Ministries

Hey Family!

I know it's not even Halloween yet but Advent is coming, and you know what that means, Jesus is about to be reborn in all of us! So to prepare ourselves for the coming of the Messiah First Congo of Manhattan youth will be beginning a study of the Advent year and the preparation for Christmas beginning on November 22nd at 9:30 AM upstairs in the Youth Room. If you have some youth between 7th and 12th grades please invite them to be a part of this preparatory celebration!

Also, don't forget about youth group. We had a great time at Annual Meeting and it ignited our desire to be a part of creating Racial Justice with the rest of our denomination. The end of the year youth schedule looks as follows:

- November 1st from 5-7:30 PM: Halloween/All Saint's Day Party! Bring: A picture for our ancestral altar; Your costume; Some candy and prepare for a Halloween movie.
- November 8th from 1-4 PM: Our very own Meredith Mulready-Stone will be a part of the production of Guys and Dolls at the local high school. We'll be meeting at the church for some food and caravanning over to cheer her and the cast on.
- November 15th from 3:30-6:30 PM: We will be volunteering to help make lunches for Second Helping.
- November 22nd from 5-7:30 PM: We will create and eat a meal in honor of the Indigenous People who lived here before us and giving thanks for our blessings while also looking at how we might atone for some of the mistakes of our forbearers.
- November 29th: No Youth Group/Or Sunday School (Happy Holidays!)
- December 6th: Christmas Party!
- December 13th: Second Helping!
- December 20th-27th: No Youth Group (Merry Christmas!)

Peace and blessings,
Tai Amri

Christian Education

Adult Education

For the next few weeks, we will continue enjoying Kristin Mulready-Stone's excellent class on the Vietnam Conflict from Vietnamese and American perspectives. The class will continue until Nov. 15th and then we'll take a brief break over the Thanksgiving holiday and return with a new class led by David Wood. Advent begins Nov. 29th and David will be leading a class on the Music of the Season. David is a member of our congregation, director of the K-State Collegium Musicum, and an experienced church musician. We will explore Advent and Christmas music during this four-week course. Join us to learn more about the origins of some of your Christmas favorites and discover new music that speaks to your soul.

Christmas Pageant Rehearsals beginning soon!

It's hard to believe but it's already time to start thinking about the annual Christmas Pageant! We will be rehearsing the play during Sunday School (at 9:30 a.m. each Sunday) beginning Sunday, November 8th. The Christmas pageant will be performed during the 10:45 service on Sunday, December 13th. If your child has an interest in being a part of the show please make sure that they are in Sunday school during November and December! Any questions? Contact Barrett Scroggs at children@uccmanhattan.org.

A promotional poster for a movie night event. The background is a dark red with a pattern of vertical stripes, resembling a theater curtain. In the bottom right corner, there is a close-up of a red and white striped popcorn bucket overflowing with yellow popcorn. The text is white and bold, centered on the left side of the poster.

MOVIE NIGHT
Friday, Nov. 20 7:30 p.m.
**Popcorn, drinks, & other snacks! Drop off
your kids and their friends for a fun
evening. Hope to see you!**

First Congregational UCC | 700 Poyntz

Cobb Corner — Going Green

“Pray for the Dead and Work Like Hell for the Living” — Mother Jones, early political activist and inspiration for *Mother Jones* magazine

November and December are major months for apparel and toy purchases. What I didn't realize was that those items expose recipients to a startling collection of dangerous chemicals!

“U.S. policy on toxic chemical control has been abysmally weak,” according to the executive director of Green America. Almost no progress has occurred in the last 40 years. (*Green American*, Fall, 2015, p.5.) For example, researchers have found that 81% of the products at Dollar General, Dollar Tree and Family Dollar have at least one hazardous chemical, while 49% contained two or more dangerous chemicals! Moreover, many of these items are for children who might handle or bite them. Examples include jewelry containing excess lead which can cause brain damage and Disney fingerpaints with high levels of chlorine, antimony and tin! (p. 4)

Clothing, in general, is also a concern. That “new clothing smell” is a sign of toxic chemical washes that need to be soaked and laundered out of clothes before wearing. Other suggestions for minimizing toxicity include: 1) Buy fewer clothes. 2) Buy used clothing or have apparel swaps. 3) Wash clothes less often and hang up for reuse, thus saving energy and helping clothes last longer. 4) Buy clothing from green companies with some eco-friendly fabrics. Even renewable bamboo is often used in clothing with conventional chemical finishes. 5) Avoid dryer sheets and fabric softeners. 6) Don't buy clothes needing dry cleaning, which typically uses an especially dangerous carcinogen. (p. 22) Also, avoid purchase of clothing with built-in sunscreen. Such fabrics are under investigation in Europe and by the American Cancer Society as potentially involved in cases of chronic inflammation! (p. 25)

It is very sad that unlike in Europe where items can't be marketed until proved safe, U.S. products must be proved very dangerous before they are removed.

Finally, if you want to know more about these issues, see the 2015 film, *True Cost*. Note that November 15th is National Recycle Day! Plan a gift for the planet!

— Linda Richter

Share ideas for future Cobb columns with Linda Richter.

Roots of Justice Anti-Racism Analysis Training

At our Vitality & Outreach meeting in October we gave thanks for the amazing support we have received from the wider community and the ways things are falling in place for our upcoming anti-racism training. To date, we have received pledges of support from eight partner organizations and several individuals, totaling over \$8,500 in donations. That amount includes \$1,000 from our own congregation via the Jerry & Atina Hanna Memorial Fund.

You are invited to register for the training, which will take place Jan. 15-17, 2016 (MLK weekend). Thanks to our generous sponsors, we are able to offer the three-day training at VERY reasonable rates (\$50 for students, \$125 for others before Nov. 25 and \$175 for others after that date). We will also have scholarships available. We hope to have a mix of ages and racial/ethnic groups represented, so please consider personally inviting students and people of color to the training.

Please do tell your friends, neighbors, and co-workers about the upcoming training by sending them a link to our website (uccmanhattan.org/anti-racism-training). It has everything they will need to know, including links to downloadable publicity materials if they'd like to help us advertise, and a link to the Facebook event.

We do anticipate that the training will fill up, so please register sooner rather than later.



Anti-Racism Analysis Training
First Congregational UCC of Manhattan, KS
Jan. 15-17, 2016 (MLK weekend)

Roots of Justice
an anti-oppression process

Learn more and register at
uccmanhattan.org/anti-racism-training

The poster features a dark blue background with white text. At the top, it reads 'Anti-Racism Analysis Training' in a large, bold font. Below that, in a smaller font, it says 'First Congregational UCC of Manhattan, KS' and 'Jan. 15-17, 2016 (MLK weekend)'. In the center, there is a white rectangular box containing the text 'Roots of Justice' in a large, stylized font, with 'an anti-oppression process' written in a smaller font below it. The background of the poster is a collage of images showing diverse groups of people sitting around tables, engaged in discussion or listening. At the bottom, it says 'Learn more and register at' followed by the website URL 'uccmanhattan.org/anti-racism-training'.

Advent Devotionals

Many of us subscribe to the daily UCC Stillspeaking Devotional via e-mail. *Wonder: Advent Devotional 2015* from the Stillspeaking Writers' Group is 40 pages of fresh, unique devotionals for the season of Advent. *Wonder* begins Nov. 29 and continues through Christmas. We can order copies in bulk from UCC Resources. **Please contact the church office no later than Monday, Nov. 16 if you'd like to order a copy.** If you are able to reimburse the church for the cost of the devotional (\$3), please plan on doing so when the books arrive.



BETHEL AME and FIRST CONGREGATIONAL UCC
SHARED COMMUNION

*We gather at
Christ's table.*

SUNDAY, NOV. 22 immediately after worship
at First Congregational UCC (700 Poyntz)

The Second Helping

Our Second Helping ministry continues to be a wonderful way in which our church extends its mission to the community of Manhattan. We regularly serve 25-35 people each week. Many of you have helped with this mission in a variety of ways, and that is much appreciated!



Currently we are hoping to add some more volunteers to our list of "regulars." We are particularly in need of individuals who would be willing to serve as Head Cook and Church Host. If you are interested in learning more about either of these positions, or volunteering in other ways, please contact Mary Ellen Barkley at office@uccmanhattan.org or 785-537-7006.

November 1, 2015

Dessert: *volunteer needed*

Volunteers: Ann Gleason, Stephanie Reeck, Jim & Carolyn Hodgson, Loraine W.

Chief Cook: Andy Barkley

Church Host: Mary Ellen Barkley

November 8, 2015

Dessert: *volunteer needed*

Volunteers: Caffey family, Dan Barnes, Ann Gleason,
1 volunteer needed

Chief Cook: Wade Honey

Church Host: Tracey Weston

November 15, 2015

Dessert: *volunteer needed*

Volunteers: Lukus Ebert and friend, *2 volunteers needed*

Chief Cook: Gretchen Lewis

Church Host: Jim Lewis

November 22, 2015

Dessert: *volunteer needed*

Volunteers: ESA sorority

Chief Cook: *volunteer needed*

Church Host: *volunteer needed*

November 29, 2015

Dessert: *volunteer needed*

Volunteers: Lukus Ebert and friend, *2 volunteers needed*

Chief Cook: *volunteer needed*

Church Host: *volunteer needed*

**Volunteer by going to
uccmanhattan.org/sign-ups**

Worship & Volunteers

November 1, 2015

Greeters	Mike & Martha Miller
Scripture Reader	Nicki Keller
Word for Children	Pastor Caela
Communion Servers	Kristin Mulready-Stone
Fellowship Hour	Sue Gerth
Flowers	Dale Stearns

November 8, 2015

Greeters	Dale Stearns, Danielle Stone <i>volunteer needed</i>
Scripture Reader	Bill Richter
Word for Children	Barrett Scroggs
Fellowship Hour	Martha & Mike Miller
Flowers	<i>volunteer needed</i>

November 15, 2015

Greeters	<i>volunteers needed</i>
Scripture Reader	Marilynn Mock
Word for Children	Pastor Caela
Fellowship Hour	Keller family
Flowers	<i>volunteer needed</i>

November 22, 2015

Greeters	<i>volunteers needed</i>
Scripture Reader	Nate McClendon
Word for Children	Barrett Scroggs
Fellowship Hour	Thanksgiving Potluck
Flowers	<i>volunteer needed</i>

November 29, 2015

Greeters	<i>volunteers needed</i>
Scripture Reader	Judy Willingham
Word for Children	Pastor Caela
Fellowship Hour	<i>volunteer needed</i>
Flowers	poinsettias

Flint Hills Masterwork Chorale

Concert of sacred music

Tuesday, November 3, 7:30 p.m.

All Faiths Chapel on the K-State campus.

Choral works include Franz Schubert's Mass in G major.

Free and open to the public.

Electronic giving

Contributions can now be securely debited automatically from your checking or savings account. Our new electronic giving program offers convenience for you and much-needed donation consistency for our congregation. Collection basket offerings can fluctuate significantly from week to week due to travel, illness and other circumstances, but when contributions are automated, the church receives funds on a steady, uninterrupted basis. To set up your electronic donation, ask treasurer Dave Smit for an authorization form or stop by the church office.

Mission Statement

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.

**FIRST CONGREGATIONAL
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**

700 Poyntz Avenue
Manhattan, KS 66502
(785) 537-7006

uccmanhattan.org



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Calendar on following page

NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION
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MANHATTAN, KS 66502

Return Service Requested

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<h1>November</h1>						
1 8:30 Choir Rehearsal 9:30 Sunday School 10:45 Worship & Communion <i>Fill the Bread Basket</i> 5:15 Second Helping	2 6:45 Timeless A Cappella	3	4 11:30 Lunch Bunch 3:45 Common Table 7:00 Board Meetings 7:00 AA meeting	5 7:00 Taizé	6	7 9:00 Mrunch at Andrea Chamberlain's
8 8:30 Choir Rehearsal 9:30 Sunday School 10:45 Worship 5:15 Second Helping	9 5:00 AAUW dinner meeting 5:15 Yoga 6:45 Timeless A Cappella	10	11 6:30 CE Board 7:00 Vitality & Outreach 7:00 AA meeting	12 7:00 Taizé	13 Ministry of the Decorative Scissors	
15 8:30 Choir Rehearsal 9:30 Sunday School 10:45 Worship 12:00 Congregational meeting 5:15 Second Helping	16 5:15 Yoga 6:45 Endless A Cappella 7:00 MLK Jr. Mem. Comm.	17 10:00 N.C. Area Clergy Mtg	18 7:00 Cabinet Mtg 7:00 AA meeting	19 5:00 Happy Hour 7:00 Taizé	20 12:00 Newsletter Deadline 7:30 Movie Night	21
22 8:30 Choir Rehearsal 9:30 Sunday School 10:45 Worship 12:00 Shared Communion/Potluck 5:15 Second Helping	23 5:15 Yoga 6:45 Timeless A Cappella	24	25 Office Closed 7:00 AA meeting	26 Office Closed Thanksgiving Day	27 Office Closed	28
29 1st Sunday of Advent 8:30 Choir Rehearsal 9:30 Sunday School 10:45 Worship 5:15 Second Helping	30 5:15 Yoga 6:45 Timeless A Cappella					