



# FIRST CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST NEWSLETTER

Volume 61 Number 6

June 2017

Sunday School at 9:30 A.M. (when school is in session)  
 Sunday Worship at 10:45 A.M. 700 Poyntz Avenue  
 Second Helping Dinner at 6:00 P.M. Manhattan, Kansas 66502  
 Thursday Evening Taizé at 7:00 P.M. telephone 785-537-7006  
[www.uccmanhattan.org](http://www.uccmanhattan.org)

## Shift

Pull up a chair. I'm about to talk about Sabbath again. I thought I might trick you into reading this article by NOT leading with that, but then I decided I might as well go ahead and be up front with my intentions. I hope you don't mind too much. It's just that summer is such a natural time to think about sabbath. Even those of us who aren't affiliated with the university or K-12 schools notice a change. The pools open. Children splash in the fountains outside of the Flint Hills Discovery Center. A Drive past CiCo park and you're likely to hear the crack of a baseball bat. Shaved ice is being sold in the Dillons parking lot in Westloop. Parking spaces are plentiful. Concerts happen at City Park.

If you're like me, you might have some negative associations with the word Sabbath. My early understandings of the concept were shaped by listening to Laura from the Little House books complain about having to sit still all day long. As an adult, I was determined to re-frame Sabbath and spent many years reading up on the subject and cultivating my own *[continued pg. 2]*



### Inside this Newsletter



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practices...most of which worked great for a time but became downright impossible once I became a mother.

In recent years, I've settled back into a rhythm with Sabbath but I've noticed it's less rigid. I may not get in a whole day every week like I used to, but I still claim at least some time each week as special, different, set apart. Rabbi Abraham Heschel (who literally wrote the book on Sabbath) says that the Sabbath is to be a "sanctuary in time."

I've found that image very useful. If the Sabbath is a "sanctuary in time" that means it can happen anytime and anywhere. It doesn't have to be on Sunday. It doesn't have to be a full day (though I still think we should strive to have a significant amount of time each week set aside, so as to not short-change the power of this spiritual discipline). Sabbath becomes any time we intentionally dedicate to the world of connecting with the Holy. That may mean it's time spent in prayer, or it may be time spent in raucous laughter. It may happen here at 700 Poyntz or out in the garden. It might be something we do alone or with others.

The important thing, I think, is that it's an intentional rest from work. It's a saying NO to the lie (ever-present in our society) that our value is determined by what we can produce. It's interrupting that endless cycle of production and consumption just long enough to remember who we are and whose we are.

This summer, I invite you to SHIFT. I invite you to claim Sabbath as a "sanctuary in time" in whatever way works in your life. I invite you to take the bold gamble of saying "no" to work just once and seeing that the world doesn't end. I invite you to honor the Sabbath and keep it holy.

*Pastor Caela*

## Sharing and Caring

### *Prayers and Concern*

- For more information, please contact the church office

### *Thank You*

- On behalf of ECM, thank you for your generous contribution of \$1000 to ECM's ministry. Even more, we thank you for sharing such wonderful people with the campus ministry: Kerri Keller, Millie Schroeder, Bill Richter, Jan Lange, Judy Willingham, Sean Weston, and David Wood. We are blessed!  
–David Jones

### *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](mailto:office@uccmanhattan.org). It is a quick and easy way to stay up to date with your church family.



## Ministry of the Decorative Scissors



The Ministry of the Decorative Scissors meets twice in June: June 1-3 and June 22-24. 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.

## Blessings on the Ministry of Tai Amri Spann-Wilson

Tai Amri is currently on summer break from his duties as Director of Youth Ministries at First Congregational, but he's still in ministry! In early June, Tai Amri has been invited to serve as "Friend in Residence" at Pendle Hill Retreat Center in Pennsylvania. Tai Amri says that's "Quaker speak" for someone who holds space for others and serve as a chaplain of sorts. The retreat that's happening at Pendle Hill while he is there is for young adult activists. Let's give thanks for the ministry of Tai Amri and hold him in prayer as he cares for those who are doing the work of justice and seeking renewal at Pendle Hill this month.

## Thank you to Sean Weston!

Though you will still see Sean around First Congregational this summer and fall, he is no longer serving as our Ministerial Intern. Having completed his field ed requirements at Central Theological Seminary in Kansas City, he is once again with us as a member, instead of staff. Sean was recently approved by the Kansas-Oklahoma Conference of the UCC for ordination (pending his graduation in December and a call to ministry). Sean is now circulating his UCC Ministerial profile, so let's hold him in our prayers as he embarks on this important search. It has been wonderful having Sean as an intern this past semester and we are thankful for his time with us.

# Pastor Caela at UCC General Synod

Every two years, the United Church of Christ gathers for General Synod. It's a time of connecting with the wider church and making important decisions about our shared lives together. This year, Pastor Caela will be attending Synod in Baltimore as a part of the Next Generation Leadership Initiative. You can learn more about General Synod by visiting [synod.uccpages.org](http://synod.uccpages.org). Watch the church's Facebook page from June 29 - July 5th for updates from Synod. Pastor Caela will also be taking a vacation just before Synod, so she will be out of the office from June 23 - July 8. Sue Zschoche will be on call for any pastoral care needs that may arise.



## Mrunch

Mrunch (moms group) will be taking a break from meeting this summer. We'll look forward to starting up again in the Fall! If you have questions, contact Andrea Chamberlain: [dreajean@gmail.com](mailto:dreajean@gmail.com)

## Thank You

Thank you to the faithful and talented members of our wonderful choir at First Congregational Church. These good people gather every week at 8:30 on Sunday mornings to rehearse and enjoy each other's company; in spite of the early hour, we always have fun. The choir is taking a well-earned rest, but we'll be back on August 13th. As choir director, I get lots of positive feed-back about their efforts, but if you see any of these lovely folks over the summer, please share some of those thanks with the following people:



Sopranos: Judy Ahrens, Rachel Hunt, Dona Sidorfsky

Altos: Kathy Bleam, Julie Hunt, Sharon Keane, Ann Smit, Judy Willingham

Tenors: Wade Honey, Paul Hunt, Craig Weston

Basses: Alfred Cochran, Joe Henderson, Jim Lewis, Frank Sidorfsky

Thank you and love to all of these!

*Gretchen Lewis, Choir Director*

## Finding Pastor Caela This Summer



Summer brings a different rhythm in our community and congregation. Pastor Caela will be using the summer months as an opportunity to focus more intentionally on soul-feeding activities that will enhance her ministry in the busy months ahead. She is hoping to spend more time practicing spiritual disciplines such as prayer, time in nature, holy reading. Summer will also be a time to dream about the future and read books that will fuel preaching and leadership. As always, much of the pastor's work happens outside of the office and outside of the regular 9-5 time-frame. If you would like to meet with Pastor Caela, the best practice is always to contact her directly to set up an appointment.

## Save the Dates - Worship Preview

**June 11:** guest preacher April Mason

**Aug. 6:** Jazz Worship

**Aug. 13:** Choir returns

**Aug. 20:** Feast and Festival, Sunday School kick off, blessing of the backpacks

**Nov. 12:** guest preacher Stephanie Mott

## Upcoming Sermon Series

**July:** "Epic Love" series on our faith ancestors in Genesis

**August:** "Back to School with Jesus" series on the teachings of Jesus

**September:** "Young, Scrappy, and Hungry" series on Joseph, son of Rachel and Jacob

## Free Money!

Do you participate in our Dillons fundraiser? It's easy! Just go to [dillons.com](http://dillons.com) to link your shopper card. If you need help, contact the church office. (Our organization number is #10145.) Check your enrollment by checking the very bottom of your Dillons receipt. You should see "...donating to First Congregational UCC."

## Greetings from your moderator

At our April cabinet meeting, Pastor Caela talked about the importance of sabbatical and she invited each committee to take a month for rest and restoration. Deacons, Mission, and Education will take a sabbatical in June, Vitality and maybe Cabinet (we will determine this at a later date) will take a sabbatical in July. I want to personally thank all the members of the committees for their leadership and service to our church. Let us all consider the importance of taking time to rest and recharge over the summer months.



Grace and peace,

*Julie Hunt*

## News from the Vitality Committee

June 5 is the Dinner and a Concert, with the Timeless A Cappella choir. The concert is at 7 and we provide a salad dinner at 6 PM (and dessert, of course!). Come enjoy a bite, a visit, and some great music! We need people to help set up and clean up afterward.

We have noticed the lack of family activities in the summer, so we are organizing a pot-luck picnic. So far, the committee is considering the Brit-Beat Arts in the Park concert with a picnic before the music starts – July 28. There are other interesting music programs in the summer – let us know if you have a favorite!

Do you want to be a part of the Vitality Team? We have a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board if you want to be on call to help with food, set-up or clean up of UCC Vitality Committee events. We will contact you via your preferred mode when we need help; you can always say “no, not this time”!

Vitality Committee extends a very heartfelt thank you for Andrew Wymer’s service on the committee this year. The family is moving in June and we will miss them all.

## *Green Pastures* from the Board of Trustees

Good afternoon everyone, I trust you have been able to keep up with what seems as of late to be a very moisture rich Spring. All of this rain is very much welcomed by our lawns and gardens and has also provided some relief for our sprinklers that seem to start working overtime way too early in the year. Which brings me to what I wanted to speak about this time: lawn care. As much as our own lawns have used the extra moisture to grow to Amazonian heights (and in record time), our church lawn and the adjacent garden lot have been growing like well fertilized weeds as well.

It's always important to volunteer some time to help keep our yard tidy but it seems especially important when growth is so abundant. One thing I've noticed is that "lawn care" on the sign up sheet seems to be the last to get takers. There are a few special folks that take care of it a lot (and do a great job – thank you!); however, we need to spread the love around a bit more.

Our yard is big and our mower is small so if you're interested in helping but think it's just too much to do alone, how about splitting it up? Pair up with a friend and each tackle half. Afterwards you can share a cold beverage and ogle your beautiful work.

For most of us, yard work is the adult equivalent of cleaning our room. As kids, at chore time we recited the first two verses of Psalm 22 and didn't even know it! In fact a kid who wanted to play video games or go outside and play and not clean their room could have written those very lines! Okay, maybe not, but as an adult it's pretty much the same. We all have a chore we don't *want* to do but we do it anyhow. Once it's done and not hanging over our heads we often feel much better. In this case, with this particular chore, we have the added benefit of knowing we are helping our church family. I know, I know, with everything else we have going on it's just one more thing, and everyone already does a fantastic job of volunteering but I would ask that you keep the lawn and the adjacent garden lot in mind when you're divvying up your time between church and home life. Psalm 23 doesn't specifically read that when we lay down in those green pastures they are freshly mowed and trimmed, but if they were wouldn't that be nice?!

*Steve Bishop, Board of Trustees*

# An Opportunity to Advance the Mission of the Church

The Atina and Gerry Hanna memorial fund was set up several years ago to advance the mission of the church. Specifically, the Hanna family asked that up to \$1,500 be set aside each year through 2020 for church member-initiated projects. In the past these funds have been used to support the intern who started the church's 2<sup>nd</sup> Helping garden in 2015, and for the Roots of Justice training in early 2016. If you would like to propose a project for 2017, please contact any member of the Gifts, Endowments, and Investments Committee (Ann Smit, Brent Maner, or Bill Pallett).

## Grow Green Event A Big Success!

Thanks to the generosity of members and friends of First Congregational, our part of the community-wide Grow Green fund-raiser brought in \$9,625 to be invested in accounts at the Greater Manhattan Community Foundation, as well as a match from a generous community donor of \$3,912. The larger amount will be endowed at GMCF, while the match will be used to support the church budget in the "Fundraising" line item. Many thanks to everyone who participated, and especially to Donna Keyser, who won a door prize for the church (\$100 of the \$3,912).

## Lunch Bunch June 7

We join together with Bethel AME Church in an opportunity for members of our two congregations to get to know one another. Wednesday, June 7 at

**Chen's Chinese Restaurant** (704 Anderson Ave.). 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.com](http://www.uccmanhattan.com).)



## ECM Notebook

*Ecumenical Campus Ministry is a cooperative ministry at K-State supported by the Presbyterian Church (USA), the United Church of Christ, and the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). [www.ksu.edu/ecm](http://www.ksu.edu/ecm)*

If you ever need a place to pray, consider coming to ECM's Inspiration Garden. It's located in the area between the ECM building and "Ruby's House" in the 900 block of Sunset Avenue. If you're driving, there is off-street parking in ECM's lot, to the east of the building. A work in progress, Inspiration Garden was made possible by a gift from Karen Hummel and her late husband, Steve, to honor her parents and give students and others a place of beauty and quiet for prayer and spiritual reflection. The rocks used there for seating and stepping stones were repurposed from Seaton Court, on K-State's campus.



In addition, to Inspiration Garden, ECM has a kitchen garden where we raise produce for those in need and for our community meals like Real Food Lunch, a "rain garden" (along Hunting Ave.) that takes advantage of rooftop rainwater and sump pump run off and a (currently neglected) wildflower garden along the north side of Ruby's House, parallel to College Heights Road. If you have an itch to garden and aren't in a living situation conducive to growing food and flowers, come to ECM. We have a place for you to scratch that itch!

Age is of no consequence. Competence matters little. What we want to encourage is the building of relationships, across generations, that nourish the souls of those who share conversation and silence, together, while gardening. It's the Way we're called to live.

*– David A. Jones, ECM Campus Pastor*

## Cobb Corner — Going Green

“Only when the last tree has died  
and the last river has been poisoned  
and the last fish has been caught  
will we realize we can’t eat money.  
– Cree proverb”

It’s vacation time, but no time to let down your obligations to the planet.

Going to a national park, camping or hiking? Take along an extra sack to pick up litter, modeling good behavior to your kids and fellow travelers. Encourage children to recognize not only natural beauty but also the fragility of the vegetation and wildlife. Consider writing or signing petitions to the Secretary of the Interior opposing opening up our national monuments to private exploitation.

Going on a cruise? Do your homework. Disney and Holland America have the best environmental records. Most of the other major lines have “Ds” and “Fs,” especially the priciest. Some ships have a sea-day tours of the ship and its environmental efforts. I recommend you take them and ask lots of questions to show you care.

As for souvenirs, buying local can be great for the destination’s economy as long as you choose wisely. Some animal and plant products are from endangered species. Their export or import may be illegal. Examples include furs, corals and shells, ivory, tortoise shells and skins. Ask what the product is made of and its origin. Is it legal to export and bring home? (*World Wildlife Magazine*, Spring, 2017).

You can certainly bring home those travel-size amenities that are found in your room like soap, shampoo, lotion, etc. If you don’t want them, donate them to Backpacks of Hope, the Crisis Center, or the Emergency Shelter.

What advice do you have for your fellow travelers? Staying home is of course an option, but as St. Augustine reminds us: “The World is a book. He who stays at home reads only one page.” Of course he didn’t have the Travel Channel!

-- *Linda Richter*

*Share ideas for future Cobb columns with Linda Richter*

# 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 [advice5cents@gmail.com](mailto:advice5cents@gmail.com) or (785) 341-6353.

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***June 4, 2017***

**Dessert:** *volunteer welcome*

**Volunteers:** Target Team, *1 volunteer needed*

**Chief Cook:** Andy Barkley

**Church Host:** Kathy Bleam

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***June 11, 2017***

**Dessert:** *volunteer welcome*

**Volunteers:** Brent's friends, Hannah Jones

**Chief Cook:** Brent Maner

**Church Host:** April Mason

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***June 18, 2017***

**Dessert:** *volunteer welcome*

**Volunteers:** Jim and Carolyn Hodgson, Kathy Bleam, Hannah Jones

**Chief Cook:** Gretchen Lewis

**Church Host:** Susanne Gilmore

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***June 25, 2017***

**Dessert:** *volunteer welcome*

**Volunteers:** ESA Sorority, Mary Ellen Barkley

**Chief Cook:** Andy Barkley

**Church Host:** Tracey Weston

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**Volunteer by going to  
[uccmanhattan.org/sign-ups](http://uccmanhattan.org/sign-ups)**

## Worship & Volunteers

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### *June 4, 2017*

<b>Greeters</b> .....	Deane Lehmann, Rachel Martin
<b>Scripture Reader</b> .....	Jonathan Mertz
<b>Communion Servers</b> .	Jess Girdler, Linda Thurston, Mackenzie Lechlitner
<b>Fellowship Host</b> .....	Linda Thurston
<b>Flowers</b> .....	<i>volunteer needed</i>
<b>Grounds Care</b> .....	Rick & Gayle Doll

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### *June 11, 2017*

<b>Greeters</b> .....	Jess Girdler, Brent Maner
<b>Scripture Reader</b> .....	Gabe & Amanda Tross
<b>Fellowship Host</b> .....	Ann Smit
<b>Flowers</b> .....	<i>volunteer needed</i>
<b>Grounds Care</b> .....	Rachel Martin

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### *June 18, 2017*

<b>Greeters</b> .....	Holly & Amanda Tross, <i>volunteer needed</i>
<b>Scripture Reader</b> .....	Kerri Keller
<b>Fellowship Host</b> .....	<i>volunteer needed</i>
<b>Flowers</b> .....	<i>volunteer needed</i>
<b>Grounds Care</b> .....	Brent Maner

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### *June 25, 2017*

<b>Greeters</b> .....	Bill & Linda Richter
<b>Scripture Reader</b> .....	Jess Girdler
<b>Fellowship Host</b> .....	Kathy Bleam
<b>Flowers</b> .....	Linda Richter
<b>Grounds Care</b> .....	Bill Pallett

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## 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

## Congratulations 2017 Graduates



**Tyler Cochran**, Bachelor of Science degrees in physics and mathematics, Michigan State University. He'll be attending Princeton University in Princeton, NJ, this fall pursuing a Ph.D. in condensed matter physics.

**Anne Fredrickson**, Doctorate of Nursing Practice, Washburn University

**Tahjai Gamble**, Manhattan High School

**Annabelle McLendon**, Lawrence Free State High School

**Zoe Pierson**, Manhattan High School

**Michaela Richter**, Bachelor of Science degree in political science, Arizona State University

**Zachary Schwab**, Doctor of Medicine, University of Kansas School of Medicine

**Barrett Scroggs**, Ph.D. Life Span Human Development, Kansas State University

*Did we miss your graduate? Please contact the church office to announce the information in the July newsletter.*

## Community News

**FIT Closet Closed for Summer** – The FIT Closet is taking some time off for summer vacation. It will reopen in July for limited hours: Monday 9:00-noon and Wednesday 3:00-5:30. The closet resumes regular hours in August: Monday, Wednesday, Thursday 9:00-noon; and Wednesday, Thursday 3:00-5:30.

### Free Concert

featuring

### Timeless A Cappella

show tunes, familiar favorites,  
religious tunes

Monday, June 5

7:00 p.m.

First Congregational Church

Come at 6:00 p.m. for salad, dessert, and  
conversation. Salad supper provided  
by the Vitality committee.

Timeless A Cappella is a 4-part women's chorus and is always looking for new members. If you are interested in performing with the group, please contact Donna Keyser.

**FIRST CONGREGATIONAL  
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**

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

[uccmanhattan.org](http://uccmanhattan.org)



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Calendar on following pages

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MANHATTAN, KS 66502

**Return Service Requested**



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<h1>June 2017</h1>				1 7:00 Taizé 8:00 NA mtg	2 7:30 NA mtg	3
Ministry of the Decorative Scissors						
<b>4 Pentecost Sunday</b> 10:45 Worship & Communion <i>Fill the Breadbasket</i> 6:00 Second Helping	5 5:15 Yoga 7:00 Timeless A Cappella Concert 7:30 NA mtg	6	7 11:30 Lunch Bunch 7:00 Trustees 7:00 AA meeting	8 7:00 Taizé 8:00 NA mtg	9 7:30 NA mtg	10
<b>11 Trinity Sunday</b> 10:45 Worship 6:00 Second Helping	12 6:00 USD383 mtg 6:45 A Cappella 7:30 NA mtg	13 10:00 NCA Clergy	14 7:00 Vitality & Outreach 7:00 AA meeting	15 7:00 MLK mtg 7:00 Taizé 8:00 NA mtg	16 7:30 NA mtg	17
<b>18</b> 10:45 Worship 6:00 Second Helping	19 5:15 Yoga 6:45 A Cappella 7:30 NA mtg	20	21 7:00 Cabinet 7:00 AA meeting	22 7:00 Taizé 8:00 NA mtg	23 12:00 Newsletter Deadline 7:30 NA mtg	24
Ministry of the Decorative Scissors						
<b>25</b> 10:45 Worship 6:00 Second Helping	26 5:15 Yoga 6:45 A Cappella 7:30 NA mtg	27	28 7:00 AA meeting	29	30	
Caela on vacation and at General Synod through July 8						