



FIRST CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST NEWSLETTER

Volume 61 Number 11

November 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

#ChurchesToo

Last month, over 5 million people around shared in a worldwide dialogue via social media centered on two words: “me, too.” Hundreds of thousands of survivors of sexual harassment and assault shared their stories or simply said, “me, too” - as in, “Yes. Me, too. I have also been sexually harassed or assaulted.” Activist Tarana Burke began this movement over a decade ago after discovering herself how powerful it can be for survivors of sexual violence to know they are not alone.

Sexual violence is not something that happens “out there.” The UCC’s Our Whole Lives curriculum affirms that we are all sexual beings and that our sexuality is a “good part of the human experience.” The OWL curriculum also notes that “sexuality in our society is damaged by violence, exploitation, alienation, dishonesty, abuse of power, and the treatment of persons as objects.”

We know that survivors fill our pews each Sunday. We know their stories are heard and held by God. We must also *[continued pg. 2]*



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remember that our communities of faith are not places that are exempt from the perpetration of sexual violence. “Churches, too” are places where people of all genders and ages are sexually harassed and assaulted. Perhaps this comes as a surprise to you or perhaps you are a person who has experienced unwanted comments or touch in a church setting. I can tell you that, as a clergywoman, I have heard too many stories from my clergy sisters who have been sexually assaulted or harassed at work - sometimes by other clergy colleagues, sometimes by parishioners. I have also held space for church members who have been abused by pastors or other church members. The Church is, sadly, not always safe for everyone.

There are things we can all continue to do to help ensure our particular congregation is a place where people are respected and honored as full and complete human beings, created in God’s image. We can make ourselves particularly aware of power differentials. We can watch one another’s body language and listen to each other’s words when spending time together. We can be good listeners, providing a supportive ear when others might need to share that they have experienced abuse here or elsewhere.

We can also exercise special care with children and young people, making sure we do everything possible to help them learn that they are in charge of their bodies. I always love it when I hear a child say, “I don’t want a hug right now” because I know this means someone has helped them learn that consent matters. My child’s teacher says to the children at the end of the day, “Have a great night! Would you like to share a hug, handshake, or high five?” I love that. Did you know our church has a policy for those who work with our children and youth? An adult should not be alone with any child and all adults have completed a background check. You can read more about our policies on our website.

I am thankful for all the ways I have seen the people of this congregation treat one another with dignity and respect. I hope you also know that if you ever feel uneasy about something that you or someone else experiences in our congregation you should come and speak to me or another trusted congregational leader. Let’s continue to work together to ensure that First Congregational is a place where all people feel safe in their own bodies and know they are respected as those made in God’s image.

Pastor Caela

Sharing and Caring

Prayers and Concerns

- For more information please contact the church office.

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 1

We join together with Bethel AME Church in an opportunity for members of our two congregations to get to know one another. Wednesday, November 1 at **Old Chicago** (Vanesta Dr. – Colbert Hills area). 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.org.)



Hands of Friendship a Celebration in Music

3:00 p.m. Sunday, November 12, 2017

at First Congregational Church

Reception to Follow

Bethel AME Church Choir & First Congregational UCC Choir

Karen Hubbard and Gretchen Lewis, directors

Linnetta Hill, piano

Mary Ellen Sutton, organ

Robert Edwards, piano and organ

Guest Choir, United Black Voices

Sheneka Cabe, director

Aliyah Stephens, piano

All Are Welcome Bring A Friend!

Congregational Meeting Sunday, November 12

Mark your calendars for the Sunday, November 12th Congregational meeting immediately following the morning church service. Copies of the budget will be available the Sunday before the meeting. We will open the floor for discussion and review the 2018 slate of committee members. I hope you will join us for this very important meeting.

Mrunch

The Mrunch group will meet Saturday, **November 11**, from 9-11am at Sparrow Specialty Coffee (219 S. 4th St, Manhattan).

Mrunch is a time for mothers of elementary aged 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. If you have questions or need childcare, contact Andrea Chamberlain.

Christmas Pageant Rehearsal begins Sunday, November 5

Rehearsals will be held at 9:30 a.m. each Sunday. The pageant will be during worship on Sunday, December 17. If you have questions, please contact Andria at children@uccmanhattan.org.



Harvest Meal Together

November 19 is our annual pot-luck meal together after church. Again this year, the Sherows are providing turkey; the Vitality committee will make dressing and gravy. You are invited to bring a dish to share, and please bring your own plate, cup, and silverware. If you can come before church to set up or stay afterward to clean up, you are very welcome. We need to have the area ready for Second Helping that evening.



Anti-Racism Retreat Nov. 4

The Anti-Racism Retreat will be held on Saturday, Nov. 4th, from 8am-5pm at Civic Plus (302 S. 4th St). We will be using Part Two of the four-part White Privilege curriculum from the UCC and you are invited to join us whether or not you participated in Part One during Sunday School this past spring. Friends from Bethel AME have also been invited to join us. Childcare and activities for children will be provided throughout the retreat, so you can bring the whole family! There is a \$10 registration fee and scholarships are available. For full details and to register, please visit uccmanhattan.org. If online registration is not your thing, please contact the church office (office@uccmanhattan.org, 537-7006).

Dinner Discussion Nov. 10

The fall Dinner Discussion sponsored by Vitality will be on Friday, November 10 at 6pm.

The topic will be fair trade in Manhattan, with guest Amy Kay Pavlovich from the fair trade store, Connected on Poyntz. She'll tell about her journey to developing three fair trade stores in Kansas and will have some of the goods from the Manhattan store.



Save The Date & Invite a Friend:

Advent and Christmas at First Congregational UCC

Friday, Dec. 1: World AIDS Day service, time TBA

Dec. 3: First Sunday of Advent

Dec. 3 - Dec. 24: "Mind, Body, and Spirit" class for adults at 9:30am

Dec. 10: Brass Ensemble in worship

Ecumenical Blue Christmas service in evening

Dec. 17: Christmas Pageant during worship

Dec. 24: Lessons and Carols during morning worship, Christmas Eve worship at 7:00pm

World AIDS Day Service of Remembrance and Hope Friday, Dec. 1, time TBD

We are honored to host Manhattan's service for World AIDS Day again this year. The service will feature music, reflection, a candle lighting ceremony. A great opportunity to slow down, remember those we love and light a candle in the darkness for HOPE. We'll have a brief reception with snacks and warm beverages after the service. If you are able to help provide some snacks or be present to serve them an offer our guests hospitality, please contact the church office.



Fill the Breadbasket for Second Helping

The Second Helping is funded through our operating budget and special gifts to this ministry. On the first Sunday of each month we "Fill the Breadbasket" during worship. You are invited to bring a cash donation or items for our lunch sacks, such as individual flavored oatmeal packets, granola bars, or individually wrapped snack crackers (such as cheese or peanut butter).

Ready to Become a Member?

On November 12, we will welcome a new group of members who desire to join with us in covenant as the people of First Congregational United Church of Christ. If you are interested in membership and haven't yet had a chance to sit down with Pastor Caela to talk about what membership means and have your questions answered, please contact her (pastor@uccmanhattan.org) to set up an appointment. You can also learn more and fill out a new member information form at: www.uccmanhattan.org/become-a-member.

Ministry of the Decorative Scissors

The Ministry of the Decorative Scissors meets November 2-4. 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



**Fall Clean Up Day
Saturday, November 4th
beginning at 9:00 a.m.**



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



Christian Education

Sunday School Opportunities for Adults and Youth

All classes are at 9:30a.m. The nursery is open for babies and toddlers. Sunday School classes for preschoolers and elementary-schoolers take place on the second floor. Middle-schoolers and high-schoolers are invited to the classes below or may be interested in helping teach younger children. Please contact Andria Anderson (children@uccmanhattan.org) or Tai Amri Spann-Wilson (youth@uccmanhattan.org) for more information about options for children and youth.

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL:

Oct. 1 through Nov. 12 (seven weeks)

The Language of Faith

Led by Dave Smit

Ever hear the slogan, “Take people for what they mean, not for what they say?” It turns out the slogan is right. We understand each other in complicated ways that cannot be accounted for primarily by the words we use. The context in which we use words may be more important than the words themselves. Read more at uccmanhattan.org/adult-education

No Adult Sunday School on Sunday, Nov. 19 or 26

Dec. 3 through Dec. 24 (Advent, four weeks)

Opening ourselves to the mind, body, and spirit of the Holidays

Led by Donna Keyser and Deane Lehman

CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL:

Fall Sunday School classes are taught by Tracey Weston and Paulicia Williams (Pre-K through 1st grade) in the Craft Room, and Amanda Tross (2nd through 5th grade) in the theater and conference room. **We begin Christmas Pageant Rehearsals on November 5th during the Sunday School hour.**

Progressive Christianity Small Group

Upcoming dates: November 5 & 19

How do we learn to take the Bible seriously, but not literally? Join us bi-weekly on Sunday evenings at 7pm as we discuss tough biblical questions and explore progressive Christianity. This group is open to adults of all ages and will meet at ECM (Ecumenical Campus Ministry, 904 Sunset Avenue). For more information contact the church office.

Remembering Our Saints

On Sunday, November 5, we join with Christians around the globe in remembering our saints on All Saints Day. We invite you to remember the saints in your own life by bringing along an item that represents the person you wish to honor. We will have a table set up in Pioneer-Blachly for your items. Your saint might be a relative or friend. They might be someone famous that you've never met. A saint is simply someone who has gone before us and has showed us how to live. We remember their lives and honor them the first Sunday in November. You may want to bring a photograph, keepsake, newspaper article, or some other memento. We'll have cards available for you to write the saint's name and we can all browse the items during Fellowship Hour.



Vitality News

UCC School of Americas Watch Border Convergence

Once again this year UCC congregations will join the School of Americas Watch, immigrants' rights groups and interfaith partners to demand justice to address root causes of migration, justice at the border and justice for immigrants. Join us November 8-9 for a special UCC pre-Convergence immersion experience and then stay for the SOA Watch Border Convergence, November 10-12. Can't go? Send a cross to be placed at the border. Learn more at www.ucc.org.

National Vigil for Victims of Gun Violence

The victims, survivors and the families impacted by gun violence are often forgotten. Therefore, the Newtown Foundation, in partnership with Faiths United Against Gun Violence and others, will host the annual national vigil service of mourning and loving remembrance for all who have fallen victim to the ongoing epidemic of gun violence in America on December 6th and nationwide vigils/events from December 6-17th. The Vitality committee will be working with Pastor Caela to plan a vigil in Manhattan. Let us know if you'd like to participate in the planning. Talk to Caela or Linda Thurston.

Witness for Justice

Looking for up-to-date social justice commentary? Check out Witness for Justice, a weekly editorial opinion column written by the staff of the UCC Justice and Witness Ministries. Find the information at www.ucc.org.

Cobb Corner — Going Green

“If the environment were a bank, we would have saved it already.” – *Anonymous bumper sticker*

Too often protecting the environment seems to be both overwhelming and remote. However, if you are over 70½ and have to take a required minimum distribution (RMD) from your retirement savings you can donate all or part of it directly to a charity and avoid paying any taxes on it! Environmental charities rated highest on Charity Navigator (4*) can make the most of your donation. Ocean Conservancy, Earth Justice, and NRDC are just three of hundreds of excellent charities.

Now is a great time to amp up your recycling efforts. See if your trash collector will let you have a monthly or bi-monthly schedule. B&L allows us to simply call when we want a pickup. This year we've had two! I'd rather save more than \$250 a year in trash collection, go to Howie's on MY schedule and skip hauling trash barrels to the curb on frosty mornings – a suggestion I realize I've made before!

A compost pile in your back yard can handle your leaves as well as food scraps and next spring you won't need to buy fertilizer.

To put you in the mood for recycling, head to the Beach Art Museum before December 9th for their wonderful exhibit on recycled art. It is amazing and I promise you that you'll never look at plastic utensils the same way again! Too often we miss opportunities to make beautiful things from plastic waste that otherwise endangers wildlife.

Also at the Beach is a wonderful room of “Thrift Style” on exhibit until December 16th. It illustrates the reuse of feed sacks into quilts, dresses, and skirts. The practice of such reuse began in the 1920s and accelerated with the rationing of cloth in World War II. When I was a child my aunt made me two skirts from such sacks.

Finally, as you plan Thanksgiving shopping, don't forget those who have lost their homes and livelihoods in weather-related disasters. Let your political representatives know you support a strong and active FEMA and the Environmental Protection Agency efforts to protect citizens wherever they live. Also, consider what Jesus would do and be generous with money, goods, blood or time.

-- *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 or (785) 341-6353.

November 5, 2017

Dessert: *volunteer needed*

Volunteers: Julia Johnson & friends, and 1st Christian Church reps

Chief Cook: Sharon Purvis

Church Host: Pasto Caela

November 12, 2017

Dessert: Andrea Chamberlain

Volunteers: Alpha Phi Omega

Chief Cook: Andy Barkley

Church Host: Mary Ellen Barkley

November 19, 2017

Dessert: HyVee

Volunteers: *4 volunteers needed*

Chief Cook: Linda Thurston

Church Host: *volunteer needed*

November 26, 2017

Dessert: Kerri Keller

Volunteers: ESA Sorority

Chief Cook: Craig Weston

Church Host: Tracey Weston

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

Ministry Opportunities *(November edition)*



Calling All Veterans. Our friends at the Manhattan Mennonite Church are seeking partners to help reimagine their “Veterans for Peace” presence at the Veterans Day Parade on Friday, Nov. 10. Please indicate your interest in helping plan or participating.

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.

Hospitality for the Anti-Racism Retreat on November 4. Need just a couple of people to help in the kitchen with meals and snacks for the group.

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.

Poverty Truth Commission. As an outgrowth of the Poor Peoples' Campaign, motivated in Kansas by Rev. William Barber and his team at their visit to Topeka in August, there is an interest in building a Poverty Truth Commission in Manhattan. The Commission is based on a model that is been used in other states. People who are experiencing poverty would publicly share their own stories in a setting where those who have the power to make a difference would be present. Relationships will be built and concrete follow up plans will be made. We are seeking someone to serve on a Steering Committee with perhaps 5-10 other people from the local community. You would represent our congregation, plan the event, and collaborate efforts with the Vitality Committee.

continued next page

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: _____

Free Money!

Do you participate in our Dillons fundraiser? It's easy! Just go to 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."

If you ever shop at HyVee, the church can gain support through your use of pre-purchased gift cards from the church (which buys them at a 6% discount). Please contact Dave Manning and let him know of your interest. If enough people are interested in these cards, we will continue to have them available.

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

Community News

Soul Food Dinner Fundraiser for Wonder Workshop

Thursday, November 16, 2017

From 6-8 p.m.

Pottorf Hall, Cico Park

\$20 per person in advance or \$25 at the door.

Tickets at WonderWorkshop.org

Or call 785-776-1234

wonder@wonderworkshop.org

All donations will support the Wonder Workshop
Children's Museum!

Silent Auction

Music by: Madam Groove & the Manhattan Mob

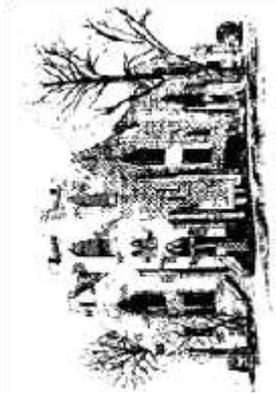
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Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<h1>November</h1>			1 11:30 Lunch Bunch 6:00 Deacons 7:00 Trustees 7:00 AA meeting	2 7:00 Taizé 8:00 NA mtg	3 Office Closed 4:30 Rehearsal 7:30 NA mtg	4 8-5 Anti-Racism Retreat 12:00 Rehearsal
- - - Ministry of the Decorative Scissors - - -						
5 8:30 Choir Rehearsal 9:30 Sunday School 10:45 Worship & Communion <i>Fill the Breadbasket</i> 6:00 Second Helping 7:00 Progressive Christianity Group	6 5:15 Yoga 6:45 A Cappella 7:30 NA mtg	7	8 5:30 Mission 6:30 Christian Ed 7:00 Vitality 7:00 AA meeting	9 6:30 MAPJ mtg 7:00 Taizé 8:00 NA mtg	10 6:00 Dinner Discussion 7:30 NA mtg	11 9:00 Mrunch @Sparrow 12:00 Rehearsal
12 8:30 Choir Rehearsal 9:30 Sunday School 10:45 Worship <i>Covenant Celebration</i> Congregational Meeting 3:00 Friendship Concert 6:00 Second Helping	13 5:15 Yoga 6:45 A Cappella 7:30 NA mtg	14	15 7:00 Cabinet 7:00 AA meeting	16 6:00 Soul Food for WonderWorkshop 7:00 MLK mtg 7:00 Taizé 8:00 NA mtg	17 6:00 Making Change 7:30 NA mtg	18
19 8:30 Choir Rehearsal 9:30 Sunday School 10:45 Worship 12:00 Harvest Potluck & 6:00 Second Helping 7:00 Progressive Christianity Group	20 5:15 Yoga 6:45 A Cappella 7:30 NA mtg	21 10:00 NCA Clergy	22 Office Closed 7:00 AA meeting	23 Office Closed 7:00 Taizé 8:00 NA mtg	24 12:00 Newsletter Deadline 7:30 NA mtg	25
- - - - - Caela on vacation - - - - -						
26 8:30 Choir Rehearsal 9:30 Sunday School 10:45 Worship 6:00 Second Helping	27 5:15 Yoga 6:45 A Cappella 7:30 NA mtg	28	29 7:00 AA meeting	30		