



# FIRST CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST NEWSLETTER

Volume 63 Number 11

November 2019

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)

## Caretakers of the Way

On Sunday, Nov. 3rd we will join with Christians around the world in the observance of All Saints Sunday. A time to pause and honor those who lived among us in the flesh and now live in on in our memories, hearts, and spirits. Every single one of us will love and lose someone during the course of our lives. Most of us have had the experience of smiling through tears as we recount what we've learned from the saints who went before us, teaching us how to live faithful and loving lives.

Grief is a funny thing. We typically think about grieving over the loss of a loved one, but, of course, many other human experiences also cause grief: illness, job transitions, ruptured relationships, moves, and more. Even "happy" occasions like marriage, graduation, or the birth of a child can contain grief, as our identities shift realize we are also letting go of old ways of being.

Whatever we are grieving, there's one thing that's certain: there is no one "right" way to grieve. Each of us moves *[continued pg. 2]*

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through the process in our own way and at our own time. And each of us needs a community of care to surround us as we grieve. It can be hard to know how to love someone well when they're grieving, can't it? I have always been thankful that the Church is a place where we can talk about these challenges and support one another in loving as best we know how.

Of course, we don't just run into grieving people at church....grieving people are everywhere, at all times. The Rev. John Pavlovitz recently wrote an essay, "Everyone Around You Is Grieving. Go Easy." I commend the whole essay to you - you can find it by googling the title and his name. In it, he says:

*Everyone around you; the people you share the grocery store line with, pass in traffic, sit next to at work, encounter on social media, and see across the kitchen table—they're all experiencing the collateral damage of living. They are all grieving someone, missing someone, worried about someone. Their marriages are crumbling or their mortgage payment is late or they're waiting on their child's test results, or they're getting bananas five years after a death and still pushing back tears because the loss feels as real as it did that first day.*

Let us be gentle with one another - and gentle with ourselves - as we exist within this oh-so-human experience of grief. Grief, as painful as it can be, is also a gift, because it is a tangible reminder of love shared. And even when the pain of grief threatens to overwhelm, we are not alone. God, who has been rejoicing and grieving since before the dawn of time, accompanies us....holding us together, wiping away our tears, whispering again and again, "I am with you. You are not alone." Thanks be to God.

*Pasta Caela*

**Daylight Saving Time ends on Sunday, November 3. Remember to set your clocks back one hour Saturday night. Enjoy an extra hour of sleep!**



## Local Grief Resources

- Our Ministers of Care have a grief ministry. If you've lost someone close to you, they will reach out to you and share with you a series of resources over the course of the first year after your loss. If you have a friend/neighbor outside the church who could benefit from something like this, YOU can be the deliverer of these resources. Just check in with Pastor Caela and she can share more information about the process with you.
- Rosie Rundel, pastoral associate at Seven Dolors Church, regularly leads free Grief Share groups. Amy Bowers, chaplain at Homecare & Hospice, also offers free groups from time to time. Both of these are excellent opportunities to gather with others who understand what you are experiencing.

## Sharing and Caring

### *Prayers and Concerns*

- For more information please contact the church office.

## Thanks

- Friends at First Congregational: I can't thank you enough for all of the support my family and I received after losing Colton. I already knew that you were a wonderful group of people, and this certainly confirmed. Thank you for covering the things I signed up for, use of the church and the awesome reception following, and most of all your kind words, presence, and prayers. I'm eternally grateful. – *Gina Davidson*
- We are smiling! Thank you for your donation of \$250. This keeps us moving in the right direction. Thank you for caring and supporting us as we provide opportunities for kids through the arts, sciences and humanities! – *Richard Pitts, Wonder Workshop*
- Deep gratitude to everyone who turned in their 2020 pledge to support our congregation. If you've not had a chance to turn in your pledge card, you can still do so now or simply e-mail or call Sandy to let her know of your intentions. Thank you to those who served faithfully on our Stewardship Committee this fall (Stacy Shaffer, Rick Doll, Rachel Whetstone) and those who shared their testimony during worship (Betsey Bean, Brent Maner, Linda Thurston).
- A huge THANK YOU to the church for providing a venue for the HALE CONCERT SERIES concert on Oct. 18th. Because of the Hale Library fire, concerts have been held in other places. We could not have found a better place for the harpsichord concert. We thank Jim Lewis and Sandy Nelson for all their help. And to the church members who helped moved the podiums back after the concert. We also thank Dr. Edwards for the use of his beautiful harpsichord. – *Concert Committee, Friends of the K-State Libraries*

***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.



## *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.

## *Congratulations*

The Kansas Geographic Alliance has announced **Debra Bolton**, director of intercultural learning and academic success in the Department of Diversity and Multicultural Student Affairs, as the 2019 Kansas Geography Teacher of the Year. According to the alliance, Bolton has done an outstanding job forwarding the cause of geographic literacy and cultural diversity awareness in Kansas classrooms and the community. Through her research and advocacy efforts, she continues to provide awareness regarding the cultural fabric of Kansas and the underserved.

## **Lunch Bunch November 6**

We join together in an opportunity to get to know one another, Wednesday, November 6 at McAlister's Deli (427 Tuttle Creek Blvd). Everyone is welcome to join us for lunch at 11:30 a.m.



## **Ministry of the Decorative Scissors**

The Ministry of the Decorative Scissors meets November 7-9. 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

## **Living Room Worship for Fall 2019**

The next Living Room Worship is Sunday, Nov. 10th from 6-7:30pm at 421 Leavenworth St. Living Room Worship is casual evening of acoustic guitar, singing, prayer, and fellowship. If you are hungry to deepen your connection to God and each other, join us in the living room! Questions? Contact Lisa Tatonetti.

## Sandy on Vacation through November 8

Sandy is away from the office from November 1- 8. The office will generally be closed while she is away. Email and the phone message machine will be monitored periodically in her absence.

## Remembering Our Saints

On November 3, 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.



## Fall Work Day

The trustees have scheduled a workday for **Nov. 9 at 10 AM.** All are welcome to attend and help with outside cleanup before winter sets in. Projects that day will include raking up leaves, cleaning parking areas, trimming some bushes on the East side of the church and some possible indoor projects left from the summer. Coffee, tea and donuts will be provided. Rain Date will be November 10 at 2 PM.

## Welcoming Dinner

On Saturday, November 9 we will gather together people who are new and new-ish to the church for a Welcoming Dinner. This is a lovely evening of breaking bread and getting to know each other. Those who attend will be given an opportunity to ask questions about First Congregational and meet some of our long-time members. If you are new to the church and want an invitation to the dinner, please e-mail Pastor Caela ([pastor@uccmanhattan.org](mailto:pastor@uccmanhattan.org)).

## Congregational Meeting Sunday, November 17

We'll preview the budget and membership on boards and committees for 2020 at our congregational meeting. Please join us after worship for this important planning event. Childcare is available during the meeting.

## Harvest Potluck

**November 24** is our annual pot-luck meal together after church. Whether you prefer turkey or tofu, you are welcome to join us. You are invited to bring a dish (main, side or dessert) 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.



## Save The Date & Invite a Friend: Advent and Christmas at First Congregational UCC

**Nov. 24** - Advent decorating with the Deacons

**Dec. 1** - First Sunday of Advent, Yoga+Donuts at 9:30am

Advent class for adults begins at 9:30am

World AIDS Day conversations, time TBA

**Dec. 8** - brass ensemble and welcoming new members in worship

**Sat., Dec. 14** - Pageant rehearsal and Advent activities for kids

**Dec. 15** - Christmas Pageant during worship

**Dec. 22** - Special choral offerings during morning worship,

**Dec. 24** - Christmas Eve worship at 7:00pm

## Trustee News

The trustees have completed a busy summer. Projects completed include the following:

1. Cleaned the carpets in the entryway, sanctuary, and theater
2. Completed the installation of the security system
3. Repaired and replaced the guttering system on the East side of the building
4. Resolved the leaking problem on the office floor and cleaning gutters
5. Trimmed the large bush on the West side
6. Repaired the elevator
7. Approved purchase of new computers for the offices
8. Maintained the building and grounds as needed (with the much-appreciated help of volunteers throughout the summer)

It has been an expensive summer, but the projects completed were needed and necessary to help us move on to our future projects in the coming year. We hope to complete repairs to the East wall and the balcony walls next year and do some updating and repairs on the second floor. Cleaning the new carpet installed in Blachly and Pioneer halls is scheduled after the new year.

## 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.



# Closing the balcony

The trustees are announcing that the balcony will be closed during Sunday services beginning on November 3, 2019.

This decision has two purposes. First, it will improve security and safety for parishioners who attend Sunday as well as for the children in Sacred Space.

The second purpose is to promote fellowship between parishioners and visitors by having everyone on the main level of the sanctuary. This will also help prevent the awkwardness of having a first-time visitor seating themselves in Sacred Space with the children without knowing that's what the balcony is used for. The balcony will remain open for the children in Sacred Space as well as for parishioners who may have a special need to sit in the balcony. We ask that you check with an usher if you have a need to be in the balcony.

Closed signs will be posted on the balcony doors and at the elevator and at the steps to the second floor.

The balcony will be open for special occasions as needed. For example, the balcony is often used for overflow seating at Christmas Eve, Easter, and some weddings and funerals. Our goal is to improve security and safety while ensuring that everyone is comfortable coming to church and being a part of the service. We ask that everyone help us with this endeavor.

Questions can be addressed to any trustee.

# From Vitality & Outreach Committee

## Upcoming:

**February 8:** Vitality will sponsor a “Mental Health First Aid Course” taught by experts from Pawnee Mental Health, from 8:30A – 5:00P. The trainers from Pawnee Mental Health can accept 15 participants at \$50 per person. Vitality will offer several scholarships and provide lunch and snacks.

## Stewardship

Dear Friends,

When we hear Paul say, “I will show you a more excellent way,” (I Corinthians 12:31) he is concluding his argument that in the community of Jesus the privileged do not run roughshod over the disinherited, nor the quick over the slow. Community life is made possible via the way of love, a more excellent way, which he will elaborate in the 13th chapter of 1 Corinthians

The community of Jesus that you and I share is only possible via the way of love. How could we be a community without patience and kindness? Who wants to keep company with the envious or boastful, the arrogant or rude? How can there be a Way of Jesus if everyone insisted on their own way?

We hope you will join us in supporting First Congregational UCC in the coming year. Your pledge makes this way of being church possible as we “bear, believe, hope and endure all things” together.

Last year our congregation nurtured hope through weekly opportunities to worship; deepened our experience with God and one another with fellowship and study; and took care of our neighbors here in Manhattan and around the globe. Thank you for making that ministry possible.

Participation in person and with your gifts equips this congregation and our faith to evolve and remain vibrant, to be that more excellent way for us and for the larger community in which we minister.

This way, this ministry, has made a difference in my life and it has made it possible for me to participate in God’s blessing of the world. Thus, I hope you will join us in making a pledge or gift towards this more excellent way we share at First Congregational UCC on Sunday, November 3. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Your 2019-2020 Stewardship Committee:

*Rick Doll, Stacy Shaffer, Rachel Whetstone*

Let me hear of your steadfast love in the morning,  
for in you I put my trust.

Teach me the way I should go,  
for to you I lift up my soul. Psalm 143.8



**THEWAY** “I am the way...”  
John 14:6

# Advent and Christmas Decorating



The Deacons are seeking volunteers to help decorate the sanctuary, lobby and Pioneer/Blachly Halls for Advent/Christmas immediately following worship on Sunday, November 24. Many hands make light work, so even if you don't have a decorative flair, please join us for some fun and fellowship!

# World Aids Day

Our Vitality & Outreach committee would like to invite members of our congregation to mark their calendars for **World AIDS Day, December 1st**. Our church annually hosts a service of remembrance and hope for the Manhattan community. This year, we will be trying out a more interactive event featuring a panel discussion with Kevin Stilley and others from the community. A light soup supper will be provided and we will be having a short tutorial on how to make your own homemade soup and bread from scratch. As the days grow colder, it's good to gather together and find warmth. Details are still being planned, but please save the date for the evening of Sunday, December 1st. If you would be interested in providing a pot of soup to share, please contact Jennifer Edwards, Presiding Officer of Vitality.



***Poinsettias*** The Advent season brings the opportunity for you to provide poinsettias in honor of someone important to you as the church is decorated 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.

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In Memory of: \_\_\_\_\_  
In Honor of: \_\_\_\_\_  
In Appreciation of: \_\_\_\_\_  
Given by: \_\_\_\_\_

## Christian Education

*Please contact Brandy McDonald ([brandy@uccmanhattan.org](mailto:brandy@uccmanhattan.org)) or Brittani Shank ([brittani@uccmanhattan.org](mailto:brittani@uccmanhattan.org)) for more information about options for children and youth.*

### **November Children's Ministry Schedule**

**November 3rd**- Yoga

**November 10th**- Deep Blue and Submerge

**November 17th**- Deep Blue and Submerge

**November 24th**- No Sunday school due to Thanksgiving break

### **Christmas pageant dates to know!**

Every Christmas our children get a chance during a church service to share the Christmas story with our congregation. This year it will take place **December 15th**. This is open to children ages 3 through 6th grade. No matter your child's comfort level with performing, we'd love to find a spot for them in the pageant. Here are the dates you need to know if you'd like to participate. While attendance at all rehearsals is preferred, we understand this time of year is busy, so it isn't required.

#### **Rehearsals**

**December 8th** (during the Sunday school hour)

**December 14th** (Advent Saturday! This is tentatively planned for 10-12, but we will get you details closer to the date. This includes rehearsal as well as some other advent themed activities).

**December 15th** (during Sunday school hour).

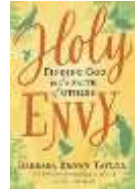
If you have any questions about Children's Ministry, please don't hesitate to email me at [brandy@uccmanhattan.org](mailto:brandy@uccmanhattan.org)!

### **Thinking of Becoming a Member?**

We will be welcoming a group of new members on **December 8**. If you are interested in learning more about membership or are ready to join, please contact Pastor Caela and we can add you to the group!

# Fall 2019: Sunday School for Adults

On October 27, the Adult Sunday School began discussion of Barbara Brown Taylor's new book *Holy Envy*. *Holy Envy* is an exploration of Taylor's very personal journey in exploring the world's religions as she teaches a class on the faiths of the world. The class this fall will be led by Pastor Sue...we'll read about half of the book now and follow up with the rest of the book in the spring semester. Please join us, even if you missed the first session. We'd love to have you!



## Board of Mission

At its November meeting, the Board of Mission allocated the last of its Local Mission Funds. All of our allocations went to support folks in our Manhattan community. We gave \$500 to the Crisis Center, which ministers to women and children in crisis, \$250 to Sunflower CASA, which advocates for children in crisis, and \$250 to the Wonder Workshop, which provides educational and life enrichment opportunities for children. The Board of Mission is so grateful to our congregation for providing the funds with which we can reach out to our Manhattan neighbors!

*Gretchen Lewis, P.O. of the Board of Mission*

## The Blessing Box

In order to help address hunger and food insecurity in our community, the ministry of our Blessing Box continues. Our church family provides soup, crackers, peanut butter, and other easy-to-prepare foods for our Manhattan neighbors, and at this time of year, we also stock the Blessing Box with gloves, hats, scarves, and socks to help stave off the winter cold. We fill the box on a daily basis with the goods that you bring in each Sunday. You can also drop off donations during the week if you're coming to the church; you can add to the Blessing Box directly, or you can put them in the tub under the coat rack in the narthex. We are making a difference in Manhattan: others outside our church family also contribute to this ministry by dropping off gifts of canned goods and other foods. Thank you for your continued support of this vital ministry!

## Cobb Corner — Going Green

“The seriousness of environmental degradation lays bare the depth of man’s moral crisis.... Simplicity, moderation, and discipline as well as a spirit of sacrifice must become a part of everyday life” – *Pope John Paul II, as quoted in The Green Bible, 1-111.*

A few weeks ago, Bill and I were lucky enough to hear an excellent talk at KSU’s School of Leadership Studies by a charming and thoughtful woman telling of her life-changing experiences in The Gambia. Her name is Lily Colburn, the daughter of our wonderful church administrative assistant, Sandy Nelson.

As she talked, she noted sadly that in The Gambia she became more aware and embarrassed by the excesses of Western and especially U.S. lifestyles on the environment. She explained that if the whole world used natural resources like the U.S. we would need FIVE earths!! If the whole world used resources like The Gambia we’d manage with far less than one!

Her experience echoes our own during the years we spent in Asia. We had a little wastebasket for newspaper clippings. Everything else was recycled. Our greatest culture shock was coming home.

Manhattan is fortunate to have a great FREE recycling center in Howie’s, open 6 days a week.

Consider a New Year’s Resolution to have home trash collection half as often. We did that when the kids left home. Now it’s about twice a year for a saving of about \$280 a year! We go to Howie’s about twice a month, at our convenience.

Some Manhattan neighborhoods opt for a single trash carrier, with barrels at the curb just once a week, saving noise and significantly sparing road repairs according to the City’s director of roads.

Finally, as we ditch our noisy, polluting leaf blowers and prepare to quietly rake leaves, place some under evergreens, around bushes, or start or add to a compost pile. Experts suggest we should leave our yards a little messy to protect roots and provide food for birds and squirrels. That’s the kind of advice I love! —*Linda Richter*

P.S. Xmas shopping early? Youngsters on your list? I recommend *The Lorax* by Dr. Seuss and *The Giving Tree* by Shel Silverstein.

*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 30-40 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 the church office at [office@uccmanhattan.org](mailto:office@uccmanhattan.org) or (785) 537-7006.

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## ***November 3, 2019***

**Dessert:** *Donna Keyser*

**Volunteers:** Mary Schmidt, William Carter, Jennifer Rodriguez, Alpha Phi Omega

**Chief Cook:** Brent Maner

**Church Host:** Pastor Caela

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## ***November 10, 2019***

**Dessert:** *volunteer needed*

**Volunteers:** Arnold Air Society

**Chief Cook:** Mary Ellen Barkley

**Church Host:** Andy Barkley

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## ***November 17, 2019***

**Dessert:** *Julie Hunt*

**Volunteers:** Morgan Budde, Jennifer Rodriguez, Martha Mather,

**Chief Cook:** Craig Weston

**Church Host:** Tracey Weston

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## ***November 24, 2019***

**Dessert:** *Rachel Whetstone*

**Volunteers:** ESA Sorority

**Chief Cook:** Gretchen Lewis

**Church Host:** Jim Lewis

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

**FIRST CONGREGATIONAL  
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**  
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Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<h1>November 2019</h1>					1 7:30 NA mtg	2
					----- Sandy vacation -----	
<b>3 Stewardship Sunday</b> <b>All Saints Sunday</b> 8:30 Choir rehearsal 9:30 Yoga+Donuts 10:45 Worship and Communion <i>Fill the Breadbasket</i> 1:00 ESA meeting 6:00 Second Helping	4 5:15 Yoga 6:45 A Cappella 7:30 NA mtg	5 11:30 Book Study	6 11:30 Lunch Bunch 5:15 Yoga 5:45 Deacons mtg 7:00 AA meeting	7 5:00 Community Acupuncture 7:00 Taizé 7:30 NA mtg	8 7:30 NA mtg	9 10:00 Work Day  Welcoming Dinner
					----- Ministry of the Decorative Scissors -----	
----- Sandy vacation -----						
10 8:30 Choir rehearsal 9:30 Sunday School 10:45 Worship 6:00 Second Helping 6:00 Living Room Worship	11 5:15 Yoga 6:45 A Cappella 7:30 NA mtg	12 11:30 Book Study	13 5:15 Yoga 5:30 CE mtg 5:30 Mission mtg 6:30 Vitality mtg 7:00 Trustees mtg 7:00 AA meeting	14 5:00 Community Acupuncture 7:00 Taizé 7:00 MLK mtg 7:30 NA mtg	15 7:30 NA mtg	16
17 8:30 Choir rehearsal 9:30 Sunday School 10:45 Worship 12:00 <b>Congregational meeting</b> 6:00 Second Helping	18 5:15 Yoga 6:45 A Cappella 7:30 NA mtg	19 10:00 NCA clergy 11:30 Book Study	20 5:15 Yoga 7:00 Cabinet mtg 7:00 AA meeting	21 5:00 Community Acupuncture 7:00 Taizé 7:30 NA mtg	22 5:00 Newsletter Deadline 7:30 NA mtg	23
					----- Pastor Caela vacation -----	
24 8:30 Choir rehearsal 9:30 Sunday School 10:45 Worship 12:00 Harvest Potluck 12:30 Hanging of the Greens 6:00 Second Helping	25 6:45 A Cappella 7:30 NA mtg	26 11:30 Book Study	27 7:00 AA meeting	28 <b>Thanksgiving</b> 7:30 NA mtg	29	30  Willingham Anniversary Party
					----- Office Closed -----	
----- Pastor Caela vacation -----						