



FIRST CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST NEWSLETTER

Volume 68 Number 6

June 2024

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**
Third Thursday Prayers at 7:00 P.M. **telephone 785-537-7006**
www.uccmanhattan.org

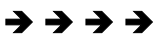
Happy almost summer, UCC friends!

It's that beautiful time of year when the days are longer, the orioles and hummingbirds have arrived, and the butterfly weed is just turning orange. In the evenings at my house, Puck, Portia, and I are keeping watch for the first spark of fireflies. Truly all things seem possible when the first promise of summer hangs in the air.

As we get ready for the season, perhaps we all could take the advice of *New York Times* columnist Jancee Dunn, who tells us to eat lunch outside, catch that matinee, and bring more ice cream into our lives. Most importantly, we can "look for small opportunities to appreciate the season."

I am happy to say that we are off to an excellent start at doing just that. As Caela practices sabbath, a holy rest, we have already visited with our friends at the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Manhattan to talk about resilient communities. Thanks to Pastor Sue for leading us, not only in that powerful conversation, but also throughout summer months to come. Thanks, too, to the many lay leaders we have in the congregation who are holding us all up. Wonderful things are happening as we collectively work to be the church.

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Summer is, as we know, a special time for reconnecting and UCC is supporting that with three events this month. On Sunday, June 9th from 5:30-8:30 we picnic with our UU and Mennonite partners at Blue Vista (8399 Secrest Rd, Randolph, KS). Bring a blanket or chair and a potluck dish to share—it's a beautiful space on the lake with room for kids and adults to play lawn games and there will be live music, as well.

The youth have a great June planned. On Saturday, June 1st at 10:00 a.m., they hike the Konza Prairie with Patti Watson and Gayle Doll where they will get to walk ancestral Kaw land together and marvel at the brilliant wildflowers that offer sustenance to our crawling, hopping, and flying kin. And Saturday, June 29th at 11:30 a.m. there's another opportunity to connect to the land in a youth gardening gathering at ECM with Jack Sytsma and Christian Watkins.

Here's hoping we all take our own small sabbath this month, pausing to breathe in the wonders of a living creation that can, when we let it, feed our bodies and strengthen our spirit.

Wishing you peace, light, and rocky road this June.

Warmly,

Lisa Tatonetti
Moderator-elect

Lunch Bunch: June 5 @ Chili's Grill & Bar

We join together in an opportunity to get to know one another, Wednesday, June 5 at Chili's Grill & Bar(213 Ft. Riley Blvd.). Everyone is welcome to join us for lunch at 11:30 a.m.



Sharing and Caring

Prayer Requests

- Please contact the office for more information

Helping

- **Need a ride to church?** Contact one of our transportation volunteers: Jim/Carolyn Hodgson or Bill Pallett.
- **Home Communion Visits** If you would like to receive Communion at home, please reach out to Pastor Caela or a Deacon to make arrangements.

Thanks

- **Thank you** for the many cards, calls, thoughts, and prayers during my recuperation. I am blessed to have such a wonderful church family. – *Pat Fredrickson*
- **Thank you** for all the kind thoughts and support after my father's passing. Your generosity overwhelms me always. – *Sandy Nelson*

Sabbatical Coverage

During Pastor Caela's sabbatical (May 1 - August 17) we have designated Ministers of Care who are on call to assist you with any pastoral care needs that might arise. If an urgent situation occurs outside our regular office hours, please contact the Minister of Care who is on call for assistance. Please note: you should leave a voicemail if they do not answer their phone, as many of us receive a high volume of spam calls and do not pick up when the number is unknown. The Minister of Care who is on call for the month of June is Kathy S.

Summer Shared Worship

Once again, we will join our friends from Manhattan Mennonite Church and the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship for 3 shared summer worship services. On these Sundays, we will all gather in ONE building and worship together. Here's the schedule for the remaining special services:



June 30: shared worship at First Congregational



July 28: shared worship at
Manhattan Mennonite (1000 Fremont)

All services will be offered via Zoom.

Note: we regret that the Mennonite meetinghouse is not fully accessible. If you have specific questions about accessibility, please reach out to the church office.



Staff Availability

Please note the office will be closed Monday, June 17 – Wednesday, June 19 as Sandy is on vacation.

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



Adult Volunteers Needed for Youth Group Events

On Confirmation Sunday, we pledged our support and encouragement to the newly confirmed youth. Here is an opportunity now to act on that pledge. We need adult volunteers to join us at Youth Group events planned for the 2024-2025 academic year.

Before she left on sabbatical, Pastor Caela began a Youth Group plan for the year, with two events per month – donuts on the first Sunday (9:30-10:30) plus one other exciting event. Each event needs at least two adults present, and we’re looking for a second adult for most of the planned events. It will be a fun volunteer opportunity!

If you are willing to join one of the events, please contact Greg Eiselein. He can share the draft plan with you or sign you up for the event that best suits you and your schedule. Thank you!



Connection Points

Sundays: Sunday School at 9:30 a.m. for adults (hybrid) and children (in-person only) | visit uccmanhattan.org/online for the Zoom link. (*When school is in session.*)

Worship at 10:45 a.m. in our Sanctuary or via Zoom | visit uccmanhattan.org/online for the Zoom link.

Fellowship Hour immediately following worship in-person or via Zoom | visit uccmanhattan.org/online for the Zoom link

Tuesdays: Tuesday Book Group from 11:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. via Zoom | visit uccmanhattan.org/online for the Zoom link

Third Thursdays: Taizé at 7:00 p.m. in-person

For more information about kids and youth activities, contact Brandy@uccmanhattan.org (age 3 through 5th grade) or Pastor@uccmanhattan.org (6th-12th grades).

Blue Vista Party/Potluck

Sunday, June 9

5:30 pm – 8:30 pm

Relax. Reconnect. Rejuvenate.

On Sunday, June 9th
from 5:30-8:30
we picnic with our
Unitarian Universalist and
Mennonite partners at
Blue Vista



(8399 Secrest Rd, Randolph, KS). <https://bluevista.info>

Bring a blanket or chair and a potluck dish to share—it’s a beautiful space on the lake with room for kids and adults to play lawn games and there will be live music, as well.

Options for Giving

We are grateful for your financial support as we continue to Love Unconditionally, Challenge Spiritually, and Minister Fervently together.

Options for giving:

- 1) Place in the plate on Sunday morning or mail your contribution to 700 Poyntz Ave., Manhattan, KS 66502.
- 2) Donate online. Go to uccmanhattan.org/giving.
- 3) Set up a recurring online gift. It is a convenient way to provide consistent financial support to the church. Your bank may be able to do this for you OR you may contact the church office for a copy of our authorization form, and we can set it up for you.

Thank you for your continued support and please contact the office if you have questions.

Christian Education

Please contact Brandy McDonald (brandy@uccmanhattan.org) for more information about options for children and youth.

In May we wrapped up our Sunday School for this school year! We have really loved this curriculum and the way it approaches scripture. Our kids often leave with more questions than answers which is EXACTLY what we want!



We also got to celebrate our Christian Ed participants and give bibles to our outgoing 2nd graders. Our kids make us so proud!

Remember that over the summer we do not have Sunday school. Nursery and Kids

Worship coverage may be spotty as we navigate scheduling around vacations but I will try to keep you posted on the status in weekly emails.

We are so grateful that Nia has agreed to try out teaching Kids Worship. We think she'll be wonderful in this role.

Have a great start to your summer!



Tuesday Book Study

The Tuesday Book Club regularly meets each Tuesday from 11:30 to 1:00 via Zoom. Together, we read books with spiritual relevance. Our past readings have included works about the life of Jesus, Celtic Christianity, the life of Mary Magdalene, the Sermon on the Mount, and many more topics. Conversations are always marked by lively questions and deep contemplation of what we have read, and the group is known for its loving support of each other. If you are interested in joining our book study, please contact Pastor Sue: sue@uccmanhattan.org.

Youth Group Summer Fun

Calling all youth! Join us for these super fun Youth Group events this summer:

- Sat, June 1: Hiking the Konza Prairie, with Patti Watson and Gayle Doll. Meet at Konza Prairie trailhead at 10:00 for a morning nature walk and some yummy trail mix.
- Sat, June 29: Gardening at ECM, with Jack Sytsma and Christian Watkins. Meet at the ECM Building (904 Sunset Ave) for some awesome gardening activities followed by a delicious lunch.
- Sat, Aug 10: Bowling Party, with Greg Eiselein and Courtney Hochman. Meet at K-State Student Union bowling alley at noon for bowling and some mouthwatering pizza.

For more information or questions, contact Greg Eiselein, anytime.

Thank you for keeping your pledge current during the summer months.

Have you considered setting up automated giving? You can ask your bank to send a recurring donation or fill out an authorization form at www.uccmanhattan.org/giving.html. You can also set up recurring donations using the Give Butter donation form on our website.

Questions about setting up automated giving? Please contact the church office and Sandy will get you started.



TAKE TIME FOR TAIZÉ

Join us on third Thursdays at 7:00 p.m. for Taizé Worship. Taizé is a 30-minute service of singing, scripture, prayer, and silence based on the pattern of worship in use at the ecumenical community at Taizé, France.

Spring Clean Up

Saturday, June 1, 2024 from 9:00 am—12:00 pm.

We will be working on the following tasks:

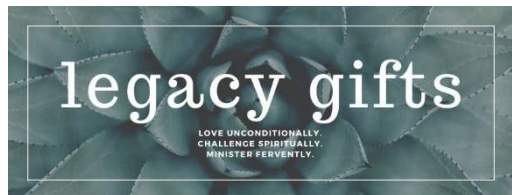
- Noting the location and labeling all electric circuit breaker boxes in the church.
- Adding function labels to any breaker that is not already labeled.
- Cleaning up and disposing of all miscellaneous, unused items residing in odd corners of the church.
- Weeding the planted areas around the church.
- Organizing the outside storage room.

If you have other projects you've noticed, please contact Facilities member Deane Lehmann.



Legacy Gifts

Have you considered a legacy gift to our congregation? Contact a member of our Gifts, Investments, & Endowments Committee to learn more about how your gift can help ensure a vibrant ministry through First Congregational for many generations to come.



Juneteenth Community Festival

June 13 – 19

Free and open to the public.

For more information go to www.juneteenthmanhattan.org.



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.

Second Helping Volunteers Needed

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 60-70 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." If you are interested in learning more about cooking, staffing, or volunteering in other ways, please contact: Les Kuhlman (les.kuhlman@gmail.com), Second Helping Volunteer Coordinator.



Current Second Helping needs:

- **shelf-stable food:** oatmeal packets, peanut butter snack crackers, cereal bars, canned vegetables (and we LOVE big cans) and slaw, ranch and Italian salad dressings.
- **cash donations:** for food items needed for meals and lunches and for To-Go supplies
- **Dessert Makers:** need homemade desserts for 60 every week. To sign up go to www.uccmanhattan.org/sign-ups.
- **Head Cooks or cooking teams:** cooking teams in the kitchen are usually family members.
- **Sunday evening volunteers:** 2 or 3 volunteers on Sunday evenings. Contact
- **Lunch volunteers:** Making the sack lunches during any time before Sunday. Contact Shari (TedfordSL@gmail.com). She also welcomes homemade goodies to put in the lunches.

**FIRST CONGREGATIONAL
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**
700 Poyntz Avenue
Manhattan, KS 66502
(785) 537-7006
uccmanhattan.org

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