



FIRST CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST NEWSLETTER

Volume 68 Number 7

July 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

Music in Our House

Surprising to no one who knows Julie and me, music permeated the Hunt household as our children were growing up. As hard as it may be to believe, there were times when I would have to ask my girls to stop singing at the dinner table because, quite frankly, it added to the general chaos of mealtime. And even though our three daughters no longer live at home, when the Hunt women gather for whatever reason, music still fills the air almost constantly.

In the past twelve months I have witnessed the marriage of two of my three daughters. And Mary, the last of the three, is getting married in late August. The music for each of the ceremonies was carefully selected. The songs are not just traveling music, they carry meaning. And the choice of music for the reception and dancing was also guided (without having to exert too much control over the DJ). All of this music provided the soundtrack for the event, and, hopefully will stir fond memories in the time to come.

Our most recent wedding (June 1) was of our eldest daughter, Martha. Her procession music was from the Graham Nash's tune, OUR HOUSE, sung by Crosby, Stills, Nash & Young on their 1970 *(continued pg 2)*



Inside this Newsletter



Sharing & Caring.....	3	Christian Education.....	6
Shared Worship.....	4	Blessing Box.....	9
Connection Points.....	5	Angel April.....	10

album titled *Déjà Vu*. And it fit the moment and place (her home) perfectly:

I'll light the fire
You place the flowers in the vase
That you bought today
Staring at the fire
For hours and hours while I listen to you
Play your love songs all night long for me
Only for me
Come to me now (come to me now)
And rest your head for just five minutes
Everything is done
Such a cozy room (such a cozy room)
The windows are illuminated
By the evening sunshine through them
Fiery gems for you, only for you
Our house is a very, very, very fine house
With two cats in the yard
Life used to be so hard
Now everything is easy 'cause of you

As we move through the season of summer; as we contemplate what has gone before and what faces us in the coming months and years; find the songs that mean something to you and include that music - instrumental and vocal - as you express your thanks and reverence for God. Peace and blessings to you all on this first day of Summer, 2024.

Psalms 47: 1-2, 5-7

Clap your hands, all you peoples;
shout to God with loud songs of joy.
For the LORD, the Most High, is awesome,
a great king over all the earth.

God has gone up with a shout,
the LORD with the sound of a trumpet.
Sing praises to God, sing praises;
sing praises to our King, sing praises.
For God is the king of all the earth;
sing praises with a psalm.

— NRSV

Paul Hunt, Moderator

Sharing and Caring

Prayer Requests

For more information, please contact the church office.

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 the office or a Deacon to make arrangements.

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 July is Deane L.



Staff Availability

Please note the office will be closed Wednesday, July 3 – Tuesday, July 9 as Sandy is on vacation.

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:



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.



Lunch Bunch: July 3 @ La Fiesta

We join together in an opportunity to get to know one another, Wednesday, July 3 at La Fiesta (2301 Tuttle Creek Blvd). Everyone is welcome to join us for lunch at 11:30 a.m.

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.



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).

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.

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.

Christian Education

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

**A reminder that there is no Sunday school during the summer months. Enjoy sleeping in a bit on your Sunday morning (when your kids let you, ha!)

Since summer gets a little quiet for children's ministry, I thought it would be a good time to remind you of all the offerings we have available!

Nursery: Our nursery is available most Sundays for ages birth through age 3. You are welcome to bring your child directly there before going to worship or at any time during the service. Our nursery is staffed by paid staff, and all have passed a background check and are CPR/first aid certified. Our current attendants are Nadiyah, Maddie, and Naliya. Over the summer nursery availability may be limited as we are in the hiring process and working around summer staff availability.

Kids Worship: We recently moved the wonderful Nia from the nursery to Kids Worship! Kids Worship is for ages 3 through 1st grade and is a space for kids to enjoy a worship space that mirrors our regular worship service. Kids interested can come after the Word for Children.

Sacred Space: Sacred Space is for kids grades 2-5 and takes place in the balcony after Word for Children. This has become a very special right of passage for new second graders! This space allows them to be a part of the worship service in a way that is more sensitive to their developmental needs. We love having this space available to them! Brandy is the person supervising this space and takes kids to it and brings them back down before the end of the service.

Please share the childcare attendant information at right with anyone you think would be a great fit for our nursery!



NOW HIRING CHILDCARE ATTENDANT

Seeking nursery attendants
who love to hang out with
awesome kids!

- Hours are Sunday mornings
- Flexible scheduling
- Starting pay is \$16.33/hour

For more information and to
apply, please email your resume
to brandy@uccmanhattan.org

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 our final summer event:

- 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.



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!

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.

Blessing Box

Many of our neighbors in Manhattan experience food insecurity, which means that there is not always enough food on their tables, or they are unsure of when or how they will eat again. You can help our community by helping to fill the Blessing Box, located on the west side of the entrance to the parking lot to the First Congregational

Church, 700 Poyntz Avenue. It's easy to contribute: just pick up a few extra cans of soup, instant noodles, or other easy-to-prepare foods like peanut butter, crackers, and energy bars, and drop them off directly into the box. If it's full, and the Church Office is open, you can bring the food inside and someone else will add your donations later. The needs are real and continue year-round; the box is often empty within 60 minutes of being filled. Please help us keep the Blessing Box filled and thank you for your concern for your Manhattan neighbors!



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.

Angel April

We call April Zimmermann, our permanent host at Second Helping, “Angel April” because she is so good at her job and is critical to the friendly, accepting community environment at our Sunday suppers. April shows up every Sunday evening with a smile and a positive attitude, even when she was exhausted from being a full-time student, completing internships, doing other community work, and parenting her son.

April prepares the dining area for our guests. She sets up the tables, adding clean coverings as needed and putting flowers on each table. She makes the beverages (water, and iced tea, lemonade, or coffee) and puts the beverage containers and cups on the center table, which also serves as the “free table”. The free table contains donated items such as books, extra bread or fresh produce, and vitamins and other items from the Manhattan Community Chest. She puts the wooden Second Helping sign in front of the church and at 5:45 she unlocks the door for our guests to enter. As guests enter the dining area, April welcomes them and hands them a lunch bag. She chats with guests and lets them know when the food line is ready to serve them. Need a plastic bag? Need advice about a community resource? Need more sweet tea? Angel April is on the job! A helping hand with the kids; a spill; a smile; a listening ear? April is there. At the end of the meal, April cleans up the dining area, and logs numbers for our records. What a blessing to Second Helping and to our guests. When you see April, thank her. And also offer congratulations. April just completed her MSW (Master of Social Work) degree and will be a social worker at the high school next year. She plans to continue her work with us as long as we’re in operation. We are very grateful.

Plant A Row for Second Helping

If you’re still working on your garden plans, please consider planting an extra row of produce for a Second Helping meal. Our guests are very appreciative of fresh veggies and if we can’t use everything in a meal, we’ll put it on the free table – last year we gave away extra cucumbers, tomatoes, and bags of green beans. You can contact me or leave items at the church – with a note that it’s for 2nd Helping, your name and the date. If you let me know, I can plan your offering into the menu. *Linda Thurston, meal coordinator*

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, 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. She also welcomes homemade goodies to put in the lunches.

Is Your Oven On?

If you're doing a little baking this week, please consider making something for dessert for 2nd Helping. We have freezer room for lots of cookies, cakes, cobblers, pies, or just whatever tasty treat you are whipping up. We have very few signed up to bring desserts for our Sunday suppers this summer. If you can bring dessert for 60, sign up on Sign-up Genius (uccmanhattan.org/sign-ups). If you can bring fewer servings, that's great! We will freeze donated desserts and pull them out when needed. And if you don't want to turn on your oven, ice cream sandwiches are always a treat! Questions? Contact Linda Thurston.

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UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**
700 Poyntz Avenue
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(785) 537-7006
uccmanhattan.org



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