



# FIRST CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST NEWSLETTER

Volume 59 Number 4

April 2015

Sunday School at 9:30 A.M.  
Sunday Worship at 10:45 A.M.  
Second Helping Dinner at 5:15 P.M.  
Thursday Evening Taizé at 7:00 P.M.

700 Poyntz Avenue  
Manhattan, Kansas 66502  
telephone 785-537-7006  
[www.uccmanhattan.org](http://www.uccmanhattan.org)

## Why Resurrection Still Matters to Me

My relationship with the concept of Resurrection has followed a pretty typical pattern, I suppose. I grew up believing that Jesus was literally resurrected from the dead – that an inexplicable miracle occurred and his body was resuscitated. When I got old enough to realize that there were Christians who didn't believe this was possible, I started to wonder myself, too. I went through a phase where Resurrection didn't matter much to me. I figured I could still be Christian without it. After all, I still loved God and respected Jesus as an important teacher.

Over time, though, Resurrection kept creeping in to my awareness. I came to realize that Resurrection is about so much more than what we think may or may not have happened on that morning when the women found Jesus's tomb empty. I read the entire Bible and found within its pages story after story of Resurrection hope. It's not just about Jesus – it about all of creation and all of God.

*[continued pg. 2]*



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It's a story that is told again and again...when God gives Adam and Eve clothes before they are forced to leave the garden, that's Resurrection at work. When Noah sees the rainbow in the sky after the world is destroyed, that's Resurrection making a promise. When Ruth promises to stay by Naomi's side after her husband dies and when Boaz takes a chance on Ruth, that's Resurrection hope. When Joseph finds himself estranged, imprisoned in Egypt...and eventually finds his way into the King's favor and helps save his people from famine, that's Resurrection. When the prophet Isaiah says, "In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord, make straight in the desert a highway for our God. Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low; the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain," that's the voice of Resurrection speaking to us. When Esther goes to the King in hopes of saving her people, knowingly risking her life, that's Resurrection confidence embodied.

The promise of Resurrection means that nothing is final. There is nothing we can do to separate ourselves from God's love...and there's nothing anyone else can do, either. Mistakes, regrets, pain, difficulty, death, evil...none of these things have the final word. God has the final word and God refuses to let us go. Living into Resurrection means living with the confidence that we have infinite do-overs available to us.

When I gather with all of you on Easter morning and proclaim those ancient words, "Alleluia! Christ is risen! Christ is risen, indeed!" I won't be thinking about whether it's actually possible for a dead person to come back to life or wondering about the mechanics of how all that might work. Instead, I'll be holding within me all of those stories of Resurrection power that come down to us through the centuries. I'll be giving thanks for Resurrection, because it's a key part of what keeps me going each and every day. Thanks be to our God – the God of Resurrection.

*Pastor Caela*



***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.

## Sharing and Caring

### *Prayers and Concerns*

- For more information, please contact the church office.

### *Congratulations*

- To **Bill Richter** on his GMCF Volunteer of the Year award.

### *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.

# EASTER

AT FIRST CONGREGATIONAL UCC



**POTLUCK BREAKFAST** 9:30 a.m.

**FESTIVAL WORSHIP** 10:45 a.m.

**EASTER EGG HUNT** Noon

700 Poyntz | [uccmanhattan.org](http://uccmanhattan.org)

Although many might think Christmas is the biggest holiday of the year, Easter is actually the highest point of the Christian calendar. We hope you will mark your calendar and join us as we move through Holy Week together:

**Palm Sunday, March 29** - Join

others from the downtown churches for a Palm Processional. Meet at City Park at 9:30 a.m. - we will worship as we walk and be back to First Congregational in time for worship at 10:45 a.m. No Sunday School this morning, Nursery is still open.

**Maundy Thursday, April 2** - We will gather at 6:00 p.m. in Pioneer-Blachly Halls for a light supper, liturgy at tables, and share Holy Communion. Children are welcome.

**Good Friday, April 3** - We join with our friends from First Christian and Bethel AME to read through the Gospel of John in its entirety. Gather with us in the sanctuary of First Christian Church between Noon and 3:00 p.m. We will each lend our voices as we read the Gospel together, with breaks for silence and song. Children are welcome.

**Holy Saturday, April 4** - Post your prayer or reflection to [facebook.com/uccmanhattanks](https://www.facebook.com/uccmanhattanks) or #HolySaturdayFCUCC on Twitter. Light a candle at home at sunset as a part of your Easter Vigil (7:45 p.m.)

**Easter Sunday, April 5** - We begin the day's celebration with a potluck breakfast at 9:30 a.m. (no Sunday School, Nursery is open). After Easter worship, join us outside on the lawn for an Easter Egg Hunt for children.



# Recycling Update:

A big thank you to **Tim Keane**, who has faithfully taken the recycling from the church to Howie's for the past three years. Tim is stepping down from that ministry and the Board of Trustees is currently looking into options such as contracting with a company for curbside pickup or recruiting another volunteer. If you have feedback for the Trustees, please share it with anyone on the Board.



## Interested in becoming a member?

About three times a year we have a Covenant Celebration during worship where we all remember our covenant with this congregation and welcome new members. Our next one is scheduled for Sunday, April 24. If you are interested in learning more about what it means to be a member of First Congregational UCC, please contact Pastor Caela. She would love to meet with you and talk more about what it means to live into our covenant together.



## Confirmation Sunday

Please mark your calendars for Sunday, May 10. That is the day we will confirm our youth during worship. We will welcome them as full members of the church and affirm our covenant together.

## Pastor Caela's Out-of-the-Office Hours are Going Topical!

Trying out something new here....instead of inviting people to stop by and chat about anything, I'm going to throw out some topics for discussion. Same time and place (Tuesdays at Radina's in Aggieville, 12:30-2:30 p.m.). If you have ideas for future topics, please send them my way!

April 7 – Resurrection

April 21 – Spirituality and Nature

April 14 – Jesus

April 28 – Prayer

## Ministry of the Decorative Scissors

The next retreat of the Ministry of the Decorative Scissors will be a three-day event held from 7 a.m. on Thursday, April 9, until 7 p.m. on Saturday, April 11, in Andover Hall. We'll break at midnight Thursday and Friday to go home and get a good night's rest but start up again in the morning at 7:00 a.m. We welcome everyone to come and experience a joy-filled time for crafting, eating, and laughing. Bring your UFOs (UnFinished Objects) and work on them in an atmosphere of fellowship. We do not guarantee 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.



## Music Workshop & Concert

Bethel AME church is holding a music workshop and concert at their church on May 16 and 17. The workshop will be held on Saturday afternoon and the concert will be performed the following Sunday afternoon. They have invited our church members to participate in this event. If you are interested in joining their choir for this occasion (even if you don't sing in our choir), please see Julie Hunt or Gretchen Lewis.

## Pride Parade

The Manhattan Pride Parade will be held on April 11. If you would like to participate, we will be meeting at the church parking lot at 1:30 p.m., the parade starts at 2:00 p.m. and activities will be held in Triangle Park from 3:00-5:00

p.m. If you can only walk part way, but would like to participate, please let us know so we can have a car parked along the parade route to pick you up. If you have one of our UCC shirts, wear it. Come join in supporting our LGBTQ community. For more information contact Dan Barnes.



# Dillons Fundraiser Update:

## Time to register your card!

Great news! Rather than continually reloading a Dillons gift card to raise money for the church, you can now link your Plus Shopper Card to the First Congregational account and we will earn money every time you use your shopper card at Dillons. Please tell friends or family who might also want to register their cards. Here's what you need to do....and if you need help, just give Sandy a call.

1. Visit [www.dillons.com/communityrewards](http://www.dillons.com/communityrewards)
2. Sign in OR create a new account.
3. Click "enroll now."
4. Enter "First" or the 5 digit NPO for the church, which is 10145, and search.
5. Select the fully named entry (**First Congregational UCC**) and click "enroll."

You're all set! Thanks for supporting our shared life and work.

## Christian Education

### Animate:Bible Beginning April 12

How would you like to sit down and chat about the Bible with Nadia Bolz-Weber, Rachel Held Evans, Phyllis Tickle, Jay Bakker and other awesome public theologians? Now's your chance. Join us Sunday mornings at 9:30 a.m. April 12 through May 24 for this seven-week adult class featuring video snippets and lots of great discussion. By the end of May, you'll know lots of new things about our sacred texts and be prepared to engage with the Bible in refreshing ways.

### Coming soon: Summer family events...

This summer we will be offering weekly events for children and families during June and July. Follow the weekly parent email for more information! Email Barrett at [cedirector@uccmanhattan.org](mailto:cedirector@uccmanhattan.org) to get on the weekly parent email list.

# MOVIE NIGHT

**Friday, April 17 7:30 p.m.**

**Popcorn, drinks, other snacks and more will be provided. Drop off your kids and their friends for a fun evening. Hope to see you!**

**First Congregational UCC | 700 Doyntz  
Manhattan, KS  
uccmanhattan.org**



## Youth Group

### Schedule

- Apr 5      No Confirmation Class  
9:30 – Easter Breakfast Potluck; Fill Eggs and hide them during Church for Easter Egg Hunt
- Apr 12     12:15 – Confirmation Class  
3:30 – Second Helping – Movie afterwards
- Apr 17-18   Camp White, Our Whole Lives (3 sessions)
- Apr 19     12:15 – Confirmation Class  
1:00 – Miniature Golf following Confirmation Class for all Youth Group
- Apr 26     12:15 – Confirmation Class  
6:30-8:30 – Our Whole Lives
- May 3      12:15 – Confirmation Class  
6:30-8:30 – Our Whole Lives
- May 10     10:45 – Confirmation! During Church Service  
End of the Year Picnic – Location to be announced
- May 31     3:30 – Second Helping





## **New Faces in the Nursery!**

Here is a picture with our current Nursery Staff. From left to right are Abbie Walker, Anna Meyer, and Hannah O'Neil. Here is some information about each of them:

**Abbie Walker:** I am currently a sophomore majoring in Bakery Science and Management at Kansas State. I'm from Houston, Texas and also involved in the K-state Marching Band.

**Anna Meyer:** I am a junior at K-State majoring in Psychology and minoring in Creative Writing and German. When I'm not in classes or working at the K-State Library, I like to spend time playing guitar, writing, and cooking with my friends. In the future, I plan on attending law school and moving back to the East Coast.

**Hannah O'Neil:** I am a sophomore at K-State majoring in Social Work. I have a lot of experience working with kids and I look forward to meeting you and your child.

## Cobb Corner — Going Green

Easter is about good news so today the focus is on the positive: *“Disappointment about a mouse not recapitulating human biology is almost like saying ‘I bought a bike but it wouldn’t fly.’”*

— Gary Churchill, of the Jackson Laboratory, in *Nature Methods*, June, 2014.

- For decades millions of mice, rabbits, cats, dogs and chimps have been sacrificed for medical research, not for them but for us. Now we realize how inaccurate and misleading the experiments on them have been for people. Today, these animals are beginning to get a break. Computer simulations and human clinical trials are proving much more reliable for us and are sparing other animals terrible fates we had no right to impose.
- Ringling Brothers Circus is retiring the rest of its elephants to a sanctuary within three years, recognizing the public has become all too aware of the brutal training they have endured and the miserable existence of these magnificent creatures. Let’s hope the movie “Blackfish” awakens others to the similar plight of Sea World’s orcas.
- Those of you who heeded the National UCC’s call last year for people to disinvest in fossil fuels associated with devastating spills and climate change are now reaping both moral and financial profits. The value of oil is plummeting and with it the value of oil stocks.
- Finally, local good news: April 18, the Sunset Zoo is celebrating Earth Day 12:00-4:30 with all kinds of conservation-linked activities for all ages. Then on April 22, the actual 45th anniversary of Earth Day is the Go Green Campaign at Colony Square where your contributions to any of 30 local charities, including First Congregational, will be matched with an additional 50 percent!

Good things are happening! Happy Easter!

P.S. Keep good news coming: Don’t forget to vote on or before April 7th!

— 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 the church office.

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**April 5, 2015**

**Dessert:** *volunteer needed*

**Volunteers:** Victoria Willis, Caitlyn Utz, Ann Gleason,  
*2 volunteers needed*

**Chief Cook:** Andy Barkley

**Church Host:** Mary Ellen Barkley

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**April 12, 2015**

**Dessert:** *volunteer needed*

**Volunteers:** First Congregational Youth Group, Ann Gleason

**Chief Cook:** Myles Alexander

**Church Host:** Tracey Weston

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**April 19, 2015**

**Dessert:** *volunteer needed*

**Volunteers:** National Society of Leadership & Success

**Chief Cook:** Gretchen Lewis

**Church Host:** Jim Lewis

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**April 26, 2015**

**Dessert:** *volunteer needed*

**Volunteers:** ESA Sorority

**Chief Cook:** Ann Smit

**Church Host:** Dave Smit

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## Lunch Bunch April 1



Join the Women of the Church for Lunch Bunch on Wednesday, April 1 at Houlihan's (Holiday Inn on Anderson & 17th). It's not for women only—everyone is welcome to join us for lunch at 11:30 A.M. (See individual Lunch Bunch locations for the year by going to the church website at [www.uccmanhattan.org](http://www.uccmanhattan.org) and then clicking on Fellowship/Events/Event Calendar.)

## Worship & Volunteers

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### *April 5, 2015*

**Greeters**..... Myles Alexander, *volunteer needed*  
**Scripture Reader** .... Myles Alexander  
**Word for Children** . Pastor Caela  
**Fellowship Hour** ..... Easter  
**Flowers** ..... Easter Lilies  
**Lawn Care** ..... *volunteer needed (Apr 2-4)*

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### *April 12, 2015*

**Greeters**..... *volunteers needed*  
**Scripture Reader** .... Paul Hunt  
**Word for Children** . Sarah Szopinski  
**Fellowship Hour** ..... *volunteer needed*  
**Flowers** ..... *volunteer needed*  
**Lawn Care** ..... *volunteer needed (Apr 9-11)*

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### *April 19, 2015*

**Greeters**..... *volunteers needed*  
**Scripture Reader** .... Dona Sidorfsky  
**Word for Children** . Pastor Caela  
**Fellowship Hour** ..... *volunteer needed*  
**Flowers** ..... *volunteer needed*  
**Lawn Care** ..... *volunteer needed (Apr 16-18)*

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### *April 26, 2015*

**Greeters**..... *volunteers needed*  
**Scripture Reader** .... *volunteer needed*  
**Word for Children** . Kerri Keller  
**Fellowship Hour** ..... *volunteer needed*  
**Flowers** ..... *volunteer needed*  
**Lawn Care** ..... *volunteer needed (Apr 23-25)*

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To volunteer, please contact the church office.



## Spring Break & Summer Camps 2015

**It's all on the new website! - [whitememorialcamp.com](http://whitememorialcamp.com)**

Taking part in The Camp White Experience is the perfect way for your youth to make new friends, grow faith in God, learn new skills, and create lifetime memories in a safe, beautiful, natural environment. We offer 3-6 day residential camp sessions for a wide variety of ages and interests...and special weekend sessions for families. Scholarships are available. Register early to save! Discounts end April 15, 2015.

### **Young Campers** (completed grades K-3)

*Sunday, June 7 – Tuesday, June 9*

Shorter 3-Day Session  
with all the great camp stuff

### **Adventure Camp–Junior**

(completed grades 4-7)

*Sunday, June 7 – Friday, June 12*

Canoe/Kayak Adventures | Outdoor Camping  
Ropes Course

### **Adventure Camp–Senior**

(completed grades 8-12)

*Sunday, June 7 – Friday, June 12*

Canoe/Kayak Adventures | Outdoor Camping  
Ropes Course

### **Creative Arts Camp** (ages 10-18)

*Sunday, June 7 – Friday, June 12*

Theater & Visual Arts | Swimming  
Camp Activities

### **Wild Water Week** (ages 10-18)

*Sunday, July 12 – Friday, July 17*

It's all about water, plus other amazing  
camp activities.

### **Family Camp** (all ages)

*Friday, July 31 – Sunday, August 2*

Bring the whole family for a memorable weekend

### **Last Blast!** (ages 10-18)

*Sunday, August 2 – Friday, August 7*

Spend the last week of summer at camp—  
it'll be a blast!

### **Grandparent(s) & Me**

(Grandparents any age,  
youth pre-K thru grade 6)

*Friday, Sept. 4 – Sunday, Sept. 6*

Weekend of quality time with your grandchildren

# Meet the Casto Family

Andy, Heidi, Amari, and Beatrice Casto moved to Manhattan last summer for Andy's position as an Assistant Professor of Art in Ceramics at K-state. Originally from Ohio, the Castos have lived in Iowa and Montana most recently. Heidi is a ceramic artist as well as chief of operations and creative director at the Casto home. Amari is five years old and in kindergarten. She enjoys creative activities, and has recently taken up bowling in her free time. Beatrice is two years old and specializes in house deconstruction. She insists on wearing sunglasses to church.



## 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 statement.

## Community News

On April 22, 2015 the Greater Manhattan Community Foundation will match gifts at 50% for donations made to participating area nonprofit endowment funds.

### Here's how it works:

Come to Colony Square Office Complex, 555 Poyntz Avenue, between 7 a.m. - 7 p.m. to make a donation. Cash, Checks, and Credit Card gifts will be accepted.

Contributions ranging from \$25 to \$1,000 per organization, per individual will be

matched at \$.50 per \$1, so a donation of \$1,000 can receive a \$500 match. Of course groups will gladly accept donations greater than \$1,000!

When you attend the live event at Colony Square you qualify for cash prizes for the nonprofits in hourly drawings. Also, the three organizations who bring in the most donors overall will earn extra \$green\$ for their nonprofit!

Donors who are unable to attend the event at Colony Square may make online donations at [GrowGreenManhattan.com](http://GrowGreenManhattan.com) anytime on April 22.

**Details at [GrowGreenManhattan.com](http://GrowGreenManhattan.com)**



The advertisement features a blue sky background with a hand watering a plant. The plant is a green sprout with a single leaf, and the soil is replaced by a stack of US dollar bills. The text 'You make a gift.' is at the top, and 'We make it grow.' is below the plant. The event title 'GROW GREEN' is in large white letters on a black background, followed by 'WEDNESDAY' and 'Match Day' in a stylized font. The date 'April 22' and time '7am - 7pm' are also included. The location 'Colony Square Atrium • 555 Poyntz Avenue' is at the bottom.

You make a gift.

We make it grow.

**GROW GREEN**

WEDNESDAY

**Match Day** April 22  
7am - 7pm

Colony Square Atrium • 555 Poyntz Avenue

**FIRST CONGREGATIONAL  
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**

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

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



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**Return Service Requested**

Calendar on next page







Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<h1>April</h1>			<b>1</b> 11:30 Lunch Bunch 3:45 CoMN mtg 5:30 Brd of Mission 7:00 Brd of Deacons, Brd of Trustees	<b>2 Maundy Thursday</b> 6:00 Light Supper & Communion 7:00 No Taizé	<b>3 Good Friday</b> 12:00-3:00 Gospel Read at First Christian	<b>4</b>
<b>5 Easter</b> 8:30 Choir Rehearsal 9:30 Easter Breakfast 10:45 Worship & Communion <i>Fill the Bread Basket</i> 12:00 Easter Egg Hunt 5:15 Second Helping 	<b>6</b> 5:15 Yoga	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b> 6:30 Brd of Christian Education 7:00 Vitality & Outreach mtg	<b>9</b> 7:00 Taizé	<b>10</b> 7:00 MAC rehearsal	<b>11</b> 1:30 Little Apple Pride Parade
				Ministry of the Decorative Scissors		
<b>12</b> 8:30 Choir Rehearsal 9:30 Church School 10:45 Worship 12:00 Fellowship/Confirmation 3:30 Youth Group 5:15 Second Helping	<b>13</b> 5:15 Yoga 5:30 AAUW Dinner	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b> 7:00 Cabinet	<b>16</b> 7:00 Taizé	<b>17</b> 7:30 Movie Night	<b>18</b>
				Youth Group OWL at Camp White		
<b>19</b> 8:30 Choir Rehearsal 9:30 Church School 10:45 Worship 12:00 Fellowship/Confirmation 1:00 Youth Group 5:15 Second Helping	<b>20</b> 5:15 Yoga	<b>21</b> 10:00 N. Central Clergy Mtg.	<b>22 Earth Day</b> 7am-7pm Grow Green 5:30 Collegium Concert	<b>23</b> 7:00 Taizé	<b>24</b> 12:00 Newsletter Deadline	<b>25</b>
<b>26</b> 8:30 Choir Rehearsal 9:30 Church School/Palm Processional 10:45 Worship 12:00 Fellowship/Confirmation 5:15 Second Helping 6:30 OWL	<b>27</b> 5:15 Yoga	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b> 7:00 Taizé		