



FIRST CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST NEWSLETTER

Volume 59 Number 9

September 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

“We Can Do Hard Things”

I’ve often quoted blogger, theologian, and fellow-UCC-er Glennon Melton in my sermons. One of the things she says all the time that really resonates with me is, “We can do hard things.” I also like how the apostle Paul put it in Philippians 4:3, “I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.”

Because, gosh, life is hard sometimes, isn’t it? We have hectic schedules. Or we don’t – and we are lonely. Or we wish we could do more, but our bodies don’t cooperate. We deal with people who are difficult – at work and at home. Sometimes we start to grumble before we’ve even gotten out of bed, wondering, “How will I make it through today?”

But “we can do hard things.” And as your pastor, one of my most important jobs is to ask you to do hard things. I am called to keep after you to see where you can push yourself to make the work a better place (that’s also known as ministry, friends). It ain’t easy. It’s not always fun. It’s rarely glamorous. Truth be told, it would be much nicer to relax with a book or waste time playing games online.

[continued pg. 2]



Inside this Newsletter



Sharing & Caring 3
News and Events.....4-6
Adult Ed..... 7

Youth/Christian Ed..... 8-9
Welcome New Members 11-13
Volunteer Schedules..... 14-15

But Christ calls us to get to work. Christ calls us to always be on the lookout, trying to see where the world has needs and what we might be able to do to bring healing and hope to God's creation. When we decide to follow Jesus, we decide to do our best to model our lives after his. That means giving...even when it's hard.

In the coming months, leaders from your church are going to be asking you to consider doing some hard things. You will be asked to consider our financial resources and discern what pledges you can make to sustain our church in 2016. You will be asked to consider serving on boards and committees. You will be asked to do one-time things or consider putting your name on a list of people the church leaders can come to when they need help with a one-time project.

There is an incredible and holy energy in this place that we love. People in the community are coming to us and saying, "I like what I see here. I want to be a part of this." This is good (no, great!) news. There is so very much that needs to be done to sustain our community of faith - from ushering to serving communion, from Second Helping to teaching Sunday School, from mowing the lawn to hosting a dinner. And we are in need of leaders to keep us focused on our mission, steer us towards a vision for the future, and recruit and support the rest of us as we serve. It's hard work - keeping a church going and growing.

But God has equipped us. Christ is our model. The Spirit invites us to lean in and share the work that needs to be done. We can do hard things...through Christ who strengthens us.

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. 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 contact the church office at 537-7006 or office@uccmanhattan.org.

Thank You

- Thank you for your thoughts, prayers, visits, and warm wishes during my surgery and recovery. You chased away my "grumpies" and I appreciated it. – *Virginia Bigbee*
- Thanks to all who contributed to the Peterson Family/Women of Church Rummage Sale. Just over \$1000 was raised!

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.

Lunch Bunch September 2



Join the Women of the Church for Lunch Bunch on Wednesday, September 2 at Hu Hot Mongolian Grill (in the Mall). 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 and then clicking on Community Life/Events Calendar.)

Dinner Discussion

Join the Vitality Committee for our next dinner discussion on Friday, September 25 at 6:00 p.m. in Blachly Hall. Martha Miller will be leading a discussion on Mexican Culture.

Watch for future Dinner Discussion dates: Leo Schell will discuss the Big Bands in October and Wade Honey will present on the history of prosthetics in November. If you would like to lead a future Dinner Discussion, contact Julie Hunt.



September Mrunch Play Date

Mrunch is brunch for mamas of elementary kids and younger (expecting mamas too). We gather on the first Saturday of every month at 9:00 a.m. to support and enjoy each other while rotating discussion topics. We are kicking off the year with an all-family play date Saturday, September 5th from 9-10:30 at the City Park playground. Come join us, eat a few donuts and get to know the other families of young ones! If you would like to be on the Mrunch email list or if you have any questions please send a note to Heidi.

2nd Helping Needs Your Help

The Second Helping is a Sunday evening meal provided by First Congregational Church to any member of the community that would like to attend. This incredible mission project has been going for over 12 years and regularly serves 25-40 people each week, thanks to many dedicated volunteers from this church.

Currently we are in need of additional volunteers, particularly in the roles of Head Cook and Church Host. Following are descriptions of some of the ways you can assist with 2nd Helping:

Head Cook: Lead a crew of 4 to prepare main dish, side dish and salad. Menu is pre-planned and recipes are typically provided.

Crew: Set up, assist with meal prep, serve and clean up.

Church Host: Greet guests, help them find available seating, monitor dining room.

Dessert: Make a dessert to serve 35-40 people, sign up on the church sign-up board outside the kitchen or contact Mary Ellen Barkley.

To volunteer, contact Mary Ellen Barkley at (785) 537-7006 or office@uccmanhattan.org.

Over The Rainbow Sermon Series

Just over 12 years ago, on May 11, 2003, First Congregational UCC voted unanimously to become an Open and Affirming congregation of the United Church of Christ. As we continue to live into our covenant commitment, “that every person has equal worth as a special and unique creation made in God’s image” we must continue to educate ourselves about how our faith relates to human sexuality and gender identity. Join us in August and September for a three-sermon series, “Over the Rainbow: The



Bible, Sexual Orientation, and Gender Identity.” We will explore what the Bible does (and doesn’t) say about those of us who identify as gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender. The sermon series will run August 16, August 23, and September 6.

Trans Kansas III

We are honored to host the 3rd Annual TransKansas Conference September 11th & 12th. Early plans are to have a track related to transgender persons of color, a track on transgender youth, and a wide-variety of workshops and presentations on other topics related to being transgender, being a loved one, being an ally, creating safe spaces, transgender and faith, and much more. More details will be forthcoming at <http://transkansas.com/>. Questions? See Sue Gerth.

HIV/AIDS Support Group Launch Team

Did you know there are very few resources for people living with HIV/AIDS and their caregivers in the Manhattan area? We are working with community members to begin a support group for people living with HIV/AIDS and their caregivers. We are in need of 1-2 people from our congregation to be a part of the Launch Team along with Jessica Haymaker, Kevin Stilley, and Pastor Caela. The Launch Team will meet regularly this fall to put together information advertising the group and disseminate it to the regional community. You do not need to know anything about HIV/AIDS and you do not need to be at the support group meetings. If you are interested, please contact Jessica Haymaker or Pastor Caela.

Ministry of the Decorative Scissors

The next retreat of the Ministry of the Decorative Scissors will be from 4:00 p.m. on Friday, September 25 until 7:00 p.m. on Saturday, September 26, in Andover Hall. 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.



Adult Education This Fall

Lots of space for learning and growing together this fall. We hope you'll make time to join us. Adult Education at First Congregational is a great way to dive a little deeper into your own faith and to get to know other people in our community better.

Sunday School for Adults

Six Stories for Us (Through Sep. 27) – Pastor Caela will facilitate this six-week class. We will explore six core stories in the Bible that are foundational to our faith. From the Creation stories to Ruth to the Walk to Emmaus. Come and dig deeper into the Bible as we listen for the voice of our Stillspeaking God.

Vietnam Conflict from a Christian Perspective (Oct. 4 - Nov. 15) – Kristin Mulready-Stone, a member of our congregation and Associate Professor of History at K-State, will lead a seven-week exploration of the Vietnam Conflict. We will have a chance to learn about the war in Vietnam from both sides, rather than solely the U.S. point-of-view most of us are probably more familiar with. Kristin will incorporate the history of imperialism in the region, as well as theological and social justice questions and observations.

Music of the Season (Nov. 29 – Dec. 20) – David Wood, a member of our congregation and director of the K-State Collegium Musicum, will help us explore Advent and Christmas music during this four-week course. Join us to learn more about the origins of some Christmas favorites and discover new music that may speak to your soul.

Coming in September: Church Night

Join us on Thursdays from September 10 through October 29 for Church Night. There will be dinner, adult Bible study, a children's creative activity (plus nursery care for toddlers and babies), plus Taize worship. We are currently seeking volunteers to provide a simple supper each of the eight weeks and you can sign up online or in the kitchen lobby. Funds are available to reimburse you for cooking supplies and it does not need to be a fancy dinner. Ordering pizzas, build-your-own sandwiches or tacos, cheese-cracker-fruit spread are all perfect!

Youth Ministries

Last Sunday, August, 23rd, First Congo's Youth Group was able to serve their community by making the lunches for Second Helping. Youth shared a little piece of their souls as many of us were meeting for the first time. I think it's going to be a good year for some young spiritual formation as we reflected on how good it feels to serve and to be in fellowship with one another and look forward to more opportunities. Some opportunities that will be coming up in the near future are:

Sunday, September 13th Board Games and Planning for the Fall Semester Youth Group

Saturday, September 26th 7:30 PM "Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat" musical at McCain (We'll be meeting for dinner before hand at Chipotle)

October 2-4 KOCUCC Annual Meeting, (Friday, October 2nd, at 7:30 will be a special youth event where we watch the film "42" and have a discussion on race)

Look forward to receiving more information about youth events, coming soon.

In peace,
Tai Amri

MOVIE NIGHT

Friday, Sept. 18 7:30 p.m.

Popcorn, drinks, & other snacks! Drop off your kids and their friends for a fun evening. Hope to see you!

First Congregational UCC | 700 Doyntz

“Joseph and the amazing technicolor dreamcoat”

"Joseph and the amazing technicolor dreamcoat" is coming to McCain on Saturday, September 26th at 7:30 pm! Here's the blurb from McCain's website: One of the most enduring shows of all time, Tim Rice and Andrew Lloyd Webber's "Joseph and the amazing technicolor dreamcoat" is the irresistible family musical about the trials and triumphs of Joseph, Israel's favorite son... This new production is a reimagining of the Biblical story of Joseph, his eleven brothers and the coat of many colors. The magical musical is full of unforgettable songs, including "Go Go Go Joseph," "Any Dream Will Do" and "Close Every Door."

First Congregational children, youth, and families are invited to go see the show. If you are going to be attending you are invited to stop by Chipotle in Aggieville at 5:30 for a pre-show dinner with others from the church before heading over to McCain. The Sunday after the performance we will be exploring the story of Joseph and his coat of many colors during Kids' Worship!

You are encouraged to purchase tickets directly from McCain. Funds are available from the church to purchase tickets for youth and children. Please contact the church office if you would like to use church funds to purchase your ticket.

Acolyte Training, Sunday, September 13

We will be doing a training for acolytes on Sunday, September 13th at 9:30 during the Sunday School hour. This training will be for all students Kindergarten and up that have not been trained on how to acolyte. We welcome any children Kindergarten and up students that have an interest in participating in acolyting on Sunday mornings! Both Sunday School classes will meet for training in the Sanctuary on September 13th. Pre-school students can choose to spend time in the Nursery during this time.

Cobb Corner — Going Green

“The earth, our home is beginning to look more and more like an immense pile of filth.” — Pope Francis. 2015

The pope’s encyclical on the environment and the Vatican Summit on Climate Change made international news and made it harder for climate deniers to claim that those worrying about the planet’s future were just bad scientists or perpetuating a hoax. Still, the issue may seem too remote for others to find compelling. Too often we wait for government or a disaster to compel action. The situation gets worse and the remedy more costly or unavailable. Thus, if we’d taken more heed of Al Gore’s book, *Earth in the Balance*, published more than 2 decades ago, we might have had a more manageable problem.

“Am I Hurting the Planet?” *Time*, July 6-13, 2015, brings the issue literally down to earth by identifying one major problem, carbon dioxide, and quantifying how we contribute to it. The article then notes how some relatively easy actions can help reduce the amount of carbon we put into the air. For example, the average American per year contributes 10,959 lbs by driving, 3,578 lbs by eating meat, and another 1904 lbs with home air conditioning.

However, even by recycling just some waste we could save 440 lbs, some composting 220 lbs, using a dryer rack half the time, 113 lbs, and replacing beef and pork with poultry 1555 lbs. Of course, vegetarian and vegan diets save even more. Turning heat down 8 degrees while sleeping or at work could save an additional 1759 lbs. Now the problem seems more manageable.

With modest changes now we could reduce our individual carbon footprint an average of 4,087 lbs.

Carpool regularly or use public transportation and we could gain another 5000 lbs! In the process, we could also enjoy significant savings. (Just by my composting my disposal has lasted over 30 years!)

This is a lot easier than finding a new planet and we can start today. I think Jesus would approve this message, but I’d appreciate your feedback and suggestions as well.

— Linda Richter

Share ideas for future Cobb columns with Linda Richter.

Welcome New Members

Kristin Mulready-Stone

Dave Stone and Kristin Mulready-Stone met in graduate school when they were both working on their PhDs in History; Dave's primary area of expertise is Russian and Soviet History and Kristin's is Modern Chinese History. They have lived in Manhattan since 1999, when Dave was hired as an Assistant Professor in the K-State Department of History. Kristin started work as an instructor and grant-writer in the department in 2000; Dave is now a Full Professor and Kristin received tenure and a promotion to Associate Professor this spring



Kristin grew up in the Catholic Church and the girls Meredith (14), Julianne (12) and Danielle (9) were all baptized and made their First Communion in the Catholic Church. But local leadership changes and frustrations with social issues led Kristin to search for something else. From the first Sunday she and the girls attended First Congregational in June 2013, the girls were hooked (the fact that they each received a bag of microwave popcorn as a welcome played no small part in that!). Meredith has since become very active in the youth group, while Julianne and Danielle regularly attend Sunday school and movie night. Meredith is a member of the Manhattan High School swim team, takes piano and voice lessons, and actively participates in drama productions at the high school. Julianne plays soccer for the Flint Hills Soccer Club, has participated in the Manhattan Cross Country Club, enjoys playing softball in the summer, and plays the violin. Danielle takes piano lessons, is very enthusiastic about gymnastics, used to play soccer, and is enjoying once-a-week Chinese lessons in her 4th-grade class.

Kristin and her husband Dave Stone enjoy travel and eating really good food -- both at good restaurants and that they prepare at

home. Kristin has been playing the violin for 36 years and also enjoys cooking, baking, entertaining and landscaping. Dave's first passion is reading, but he also runs the Chess Club at Amanda Arnold Elementary and has helped out in coaching Julianne's and Danielle's soccer teams.

All five of the Stones are thrilled with the community at First Congregational and feel so fortunate to have found this church and to have been welcomed so warmly.

Lesley Noble

We have been in Manhattan about 5 years and attending First Congregational about 4 years. I realized that I was no longer comfortable with being part of a church where I would be assumed to hold certain beliefs that I do not hold. Specifically when I found out that such a thing as an ONA statement could exist, I wanted to be at a church that had one. Since I have been a part of First Congregational, I have had my first experience in a church where women are really equal in all parts of church life. My mother also attends a church that has a woman pastor, and it is something that was a big deal, and there was discussion about "can we handle it." I have found that I really like that this is an unremarkable thing in our church. I think it encourages spiritual growth for all members when we do not set aside certain roles for certain kinds of people.

I love a story that Jerry Hanna used to tell. Several years ago Atina became a Deacon. At the time, the custom was that the male Deacons would count the offering while the female Deacons cleaned the Communion vessels. After about a month of this, Atina said that it was time to switch and she was ready to have her turn to count the money and the men could have a turn to wash up. And from then on they all took turns.

About myself -- I have just started a part-time job as an office assistant. I have been a stay-at-home mom for the last few years, and also very involved in my son Eli's home ABA program that he did 3 hours a day during pre-school, since he was diagnosed with autism right before he turned 4. My husband is in the Army, right now he is a ROTC instructor at K-State. My kids are 9, 6, and 6, and attend Amanda Arnold. We live near Cico Park. We plan to retire to Manhattan if we end up PCSing away, my husband has 5 years to go and then he can retire from the Army.

David Cassidy

I was born in Nebraska but spent time growing up in Montana and graduated from high school in Colorado. I completed my undergraduate degree in history at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln and earned a M.A. in Higher Education Administration at the University of Missouri-Kansas City.



I have worked in higher education for 18 years. After previous stints as an advisor and distance education manager, I moved to Manhattan in May 2013 to advise pre-health students. Working with these students has been a "revelation" for me. Their drive, their energy, and their commitment to service are a joy and inspiration to be around.

My hobbies include cycling and yoga. I have done week-long tours across Nebraska and through the Rocky Mountains. I hope to tour the Rocky Mountains again (Nebraska, not so much :-).

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.

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 office@uccmanhattan.org or 785-537-7006.

September 6, 2015

Dessert: *volunteer needed*

Volunteers: Ann Gleason, *4 volunteers needed*

Chief Cook: Andy Barkley

Church Host: Mary Ellen Barkley

September 13, 2015

Dessert: *volunteer needed*

Volunteers: Manhattan Mennonite Church, Ann Gleason

Chief Cook: Bob Atchison

Church Host: Pastor Caela

September 20, 2015

Dessert: *volunteer needed*

Volunteers: Kathy Bleam, Susanne Gilmore, *2 volunteers needed*

Chief Cook: Angela Hubler

Church Host: *volunteer needed*

September 27, 2015

Dessert: *volunteer needed*

Volunteers: ESA sorority

Chief Cook: Ann Smit

Church Host: Dave Smit



Did you know that Amazon will donate 0.5% of the price of your eligible AmazonSmile purchases to First Congregational Church whenever you shop on AmazonSmile? AmazonSmile is the same Amazon you know. Same products, same prices, same service. Support the church by starting your shopping at smile.amazon.com. Log onto the special church link to get started: <https://smile.amazon.com/ch/48-0949129>

Worship & Volunteers

September 6, 2015

Greeters	Joy Schell, <i>volunteer needed</i>
Scripture Reader	<i>volunteer needed</i>
Word for Children	Pastor Caela
Communion Servers	<i>volunteers needed</i>
Fellowship Hour	<i>volunteer needed</i>
Flowers	Sue Gerth
Lawn Care	Jim Hodgson (<i>Sept 3-5</i>)

September 13, 2015

Greeters	<i>volunteers needed</i>
Scripture Reader	<i>volunteer needed</i>
Word for Children	Barrett Scroggs
Fellowship Hour	<i>volunteer needed</i>
Flowers	<i>volunteer needed</i>
Lawn Care	Dave Smit (<i>Sept 10-12</i>)

September 20, 2015

Greeters	<i>volunteers needed</i>
Scripture Reader	<i>volunteer needed</i>
Word for Children	Pastor Caela
Fellowship Hour	<i>volunteer needed</i>
Flowers	Judy Willingham
Lawn Care	Dale Stearns (<i>Sept 17-19</i>)

September 27, 2015

Greeters	<i>volunteers needed</i>
Scripture Reader	<i>volunteer needed</i>
Word for Children	Barrett Scroggs
Fellowship Hour	<i>volunteer needed</i>
Flowers	Susanne Gilmore
Lawn Care	Donna Keyser (<i>Sept 24-26</i>)

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

**FIRST CONGREGATIONAL
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**

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

uccmanhattan.org



This newsletter is printed on recycled paper
made of 100% post-consumer content.



NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION
U S POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT NO. 478
MANHATTAN, KS 66502

Return Service Requested

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<h1>September 2015</h1>		1	2 11:30 Lunch Bunch 3:45 Common Table meeting 7:00 Board Meetings 7:00 AA meeting	3	4	5 9:00 Mrunch Play Date at City Park
6 8:30 Choir Rehearsal 9:30 Sunday School 10:45 Worship & Communion <i>Fill the Bread Basket</i> 5:15 Second Helping	7 Labor Day Offices Closed 5:15 Yoga 6:45 Endless A Cappella	8	9 6:30 CE Board 7:00 Vitality & Outreach 7:00 AA meeting	10 Church Night* 7:00 Taizé	11	12
					<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; width: fit-content; margin: 0 auto;"> Kansas Transgender Education Conference </div>	

<p>13 8:30 Choir Rehearsal 9:30 Sunday School 10:45 Worship 5:15 Second Helping 7:00 Youth Group</p>	<p>14 5:00 AAUW dinner meeting 5:15 Yoga 6:45 Endless A Cappella</p>	<p>15 10:00 N.C. Area Clergy Mtg</p>	<p>16 7:00 Cabinet Mtg 7:00 AA meeting</p>	<p>17 Church Night* 7:00 Taizé</p>	<p>18 7:30 Movie Night</p>	<p>19</p>		
<p>20 8:30 Choir Rehearsal 9:30 Sunday School 10:45 Worship 5:15 Second Helping</p>	<p>21 5:15 Yoga 6:45 Endless A Cappella 7:00 MLK Jr. Mem. Comm.</p>	<p>22</p>	<p>23 7:00 AA meeting</p>	<p>24 Church Night* 7:00 Taizé</p>	<p>25 12:00 Newsletter Deadline 6:00 Dinner Discussion</p>	<p>26 7:30 "Joseph..." at McCain</p>		
<p>27 8:30 Choir Rehearsal 9:30 Sunday School 10:45 Worship 12:30 Communion at Bethel AME 5:15 Second Helping</p>	<p>28 5:15 Yoga 6:45 Endless A Cappella</p>	<p>29</p>	<p>30 7:00 AA meeting</p>	<table border="1"> <tr> <td data-bbox="1192 572 1515 628"> <p>Ministry of the Decorative Scissors</p> </td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="1057 660 1539 873"> <p>*Thursday Church Night: 5:30-6:30 Dinner 6:00-6:30 Children's Activity (ages 3+) 6:00-7:30 Childcare 6:30-7:30 Covenant Bible Study 7:00-7:30 Taizé Worship</p> </td> </tr> </table>			<p>Ministry of the Decorative Scissors</p>	<p>*Thursday Church Night: 5:30-6:30 Dinner 6:00-6:30 Children's Activity (ages 3+) 6:00-7:30 Childcare 6:30-7:30 Covenant Bible Study 7:00-7:30 Taizé Worship</p>
<p>Ministry of the Decorative Scissors</p>								
<p>*Thursday Church Night: 5:30-6:30 Dinner 6:00-6:30 Children's Activity (ages 3+) 6:00-7:30 Childcare 6:30-7:30 Covenant Bible Study 7:00-7:30 Taizé Worship</p>								