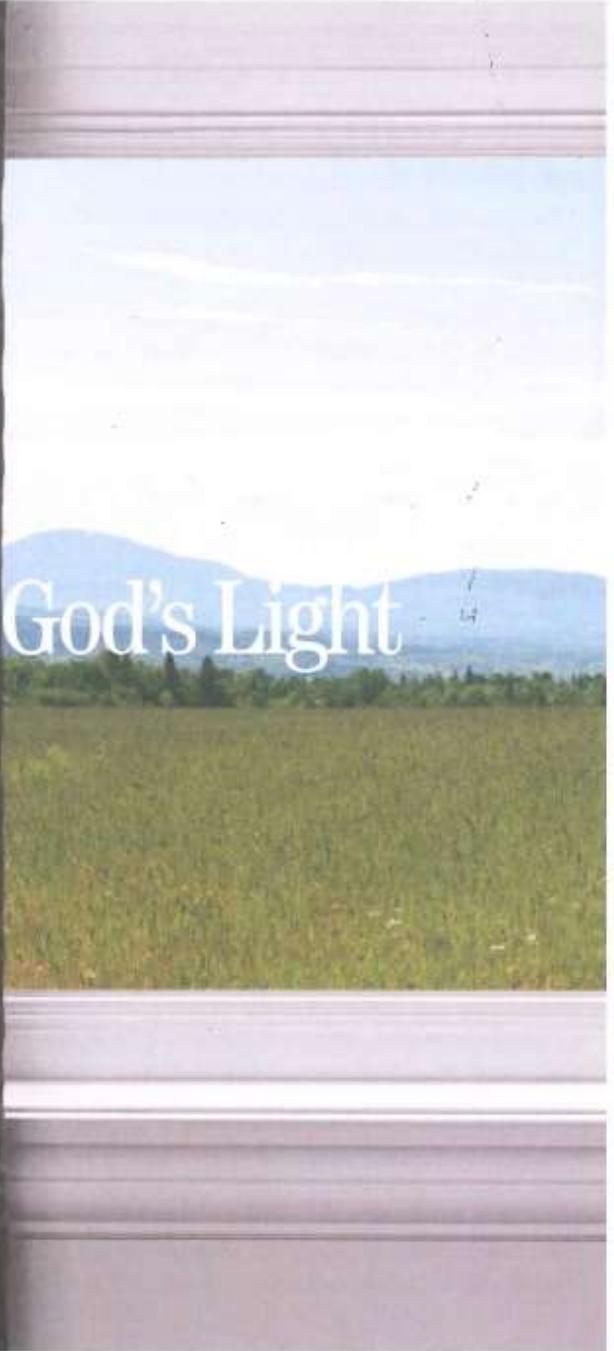




First Congregational United Church of Christ
Manhattan, Kansas

where God is still speaking.

Tending God's Light



FIRST CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

700 Poyntz Avenue

Manhattan, Kansas 66502

The Rev. Caela Simmons Wood, Pastor

Julie Hunt, Moderator

Tai Amri Spann-Wilson, Youth Ministry

Andria Anderson, Director of Children's Ministries

Sue Zschoche, Pastoral Associate

Sandy Nelson, Administrative Assistant

telephone 785-537-7006

www.uccmanhattan.org

Gretchen Lewis, Choir Director

Robert Edwards, Mary Ellen Sutton, Organists

The Rev. Christian Watkins, Campus Pastor

Dave Smit, Treasurer

Jeff Keller, Financial Secretary

Nancy Holmes, Custodian

32ND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME NOVEMBER 12, 2017, AT 10:45 A.M.

Welcome! If you are worshipping with us for the first time, we hope that you will find God's presence among us. Your presence with us enriches our vision of the Body of Christ, and we give thanks that you have joined us today. We hope you will sign the register pad when it is passed. Immediately following worship, refreshments are served at **Fellowship Hour** in Pioneer and Blachly Halls. Just exit the doors to the left of the pulpit and follow the crowd. Enjoy a cup of fair trade coffee. We look forward to greeting you there. If you have questions, please ask.

If you have special needs, please let one of the ushers know. Hearing assist devices, wheelchairs, and walkers are available. The elevator provides access to all three floors of the building. Restrooms are located on each floor. Our lower level has wheelchair accessible, all gender restrooms.

Children are welcome in worship (and we know they may need to wiggle!). If you'd prefer, we do offer activities upstairs. Children ages 3 and under are welcome in the Nursery at any time. After the Word for Children, children 3 and up are invited to join us in the theater for Kids Worship - a worship service that mirrors our service in the Sanctuary. Please check out our website for information about Sunday School for children and adults at 9:30 a.m. on Sundays during the school year.

---- *Assisting in Today's Worship* ----

Greeter: Lisa Tatonetti

Sanctuary Flowers: Stephanie Reeck

Fellowship Hour: Ann Smit

Word for Children: Andria Anderson

Reading Scripture: Judy Ahrens

Grounds Care: TBA

WORDS OF WELCOME

PRELUDE

Craig Parker, trumpet; Robert Edwards, organ

“Sonata in F”

Pietro Baldassare

Grave and Allegro

CALLED IN GOD'S PRESENCE FOR ALL SAINTS' DAY

One: Whether this is your first time joining us, if you have been away for a long time, or if you have been coming here your whole life,

Many: **we are here to offer you a warm welcome.**

One: No matter who you love or how much money you make; however you look or the number of candles on your birthday cake,

Many: **we invite you to walk with us in a faith journey responsive to God's call.**

One: Whether you have no doubts about your faith or if you are full of questions,

Many: **our doors, our hearts and our minds are open to you.**

One: No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey,

Many: **you are welcome here. Let us worship God together!**

Rev. Tom O'Brien

✦ **HYMN 326** (*The New Century Hymnal located in pew backs.*)

“Crashing Waters at Creation”

Stuttgart

✦ *Indicates all who are able, please stand.*

BAPTISM

Deane Lehmann

COVENANT CELEBRATION AND RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBERS

Patrick and Sophia Kenney-Tolentino

Deane Lehmann

Jake Meyer

Jeff Watson

Pastor: The church is a community of people with varied gifts, united by Holy Spirit. We gather to celebrate God's presence, to discern God's truths, and to follow the way of Jesus. And so we ask you, those who

seek membership in this congregation, will you join with us as we covenant with God and with one another...

Congregation: to seek the mind of Christ, to be open to the new light and truth God has for us, to bear each other's burdens and share each other's joys, to pray for each other, to serve in the name of Christ, to give to this church and its mission, and to take our stand for justice and peace, confident God's concern embraces the whole world.

*Pastor to New Members: If so, please answer, "I will with God's help."
(Congregation, please rise in body or in spirit.)*

Pastor to Congregation: Dear friends in Christ, let us pledge to these persons our support and care.

Congregation: As your fellow-travelers in the Way of Christ, we rejoice in the gifts you bring to us. We pledge to you our love and support. With God's help, we will together live out the mission and ministry of Christ's Church.

Deacon to New Members: In the name of Jesus Christ, we welcome you to the privileges and responsibilities of membership in this congregation. We give thanks to God for your witness among us.

Signs of welcome are extended from existing members to new members.

EXCHANGING THE PEACE

One: The peace of Christ be with you.

*Many: **And also with you.***

As a sign of our reconciliation, please greet those around you with words such as: "Peace be with you. / And also with you."

✦ ACT OF PRAISE

(all join in singing Hymn #85)

"I Woke Up This Morning"

I woke up this morning with my mind stayed on Jesus,
Woke up this morning with my mind stayed on Jesus,
Woke up this morning with my mind stayed on Jesus,

Hallelu, hallelu, hallelujah.

Singing and praying with my mind stayed on Jesus,
Singing and praying with my mind stayed on Jesus,
Singing and praying with my mind stayed on Jesus,
Hallelu, hallelu, hallelujah.

LISTENING

for our Still-speaking God

WORD FOR CHILDREN

Andria Anderson

If your child is going to the Nursery or Kids' Worship for the first time today, please fill out a Child Information Card (located in the back of the pew) and deliver it to one of our staff members upstairs.

SCRIPTURE LESSONS

Judy Ahrens

Joshua 24:1-3a, 14-25 (Old Testament page 210 in the pew Bible)

Matthew 25:1-13 (New Testament page 26 in the pew Bible)

THE WORD IN MUSIC

"Be Thou My Vision"

Chancel Choir
Graham Godfrey

SERMON

"Why is the sky blue? A journey back to God."

Stephanie Mott

RESPONDING

in hope and thanksgiving

OFFERTORY SENTENCE

Prefer to make an electronic contribution? Visit the Giving Station located in the back of the Sanctuary to make a credit or debit card gift or set up recurring contributions from your bank account.

MUSIC AT THE OFFERTORY

"Allegro"

Pietro Baldassare

DOXOLOGY

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God all creatures here below;
Praise God above, ye heav'nly host:
Creator, Christ and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

You are invited to share your joy or concern aloud. If you would prefer to have Caela read your prayer aloud, please use one of the cards located at the back of the Sanctuary.

*We respond: Merciful God....**hear our prayer.***

Each week, we hold a few of our members in prayer, working our way through the entire membership over the course of a year. This week, we hold the following people in prayer: Leslie Bell, Pat Wood, Elaine De Smedt.

PRAYER OF JESUS *(said in unison)*

“Our Father” is the traditional way this prayer begins. For many, however, the traditional language is a hindrance to the intimacy of their relationship with God. You are invited to use whatever name for God you find most meaningful (Mother, Father, Creator, God, Friend, etc.). Together, our names for God will create a beautiful chorus reaching out to the Holy.

**Our Father who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name.
Thy kingdom come.
Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.
Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, and the power,
and the glory, forever. Amen.**

GOING FORTH

to Be the Church

✦ **HYMN** *(See page 8.)*

“For All the Children”

**SHARING OPPORTUNITIES TO LOVE UNCONDITIONALLY.
CHALLENGE SPIRITUALLY. MINISTER FERVENTLY.**

CHARGE AND BLESSING



TAKE TIME FOR TAIZÉ

Join us on Thursday evenings 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.

✦ CONGREGATIONAL CHORAL BENEDICTION
"Let Us Live in the Light"

(Sung two times)

The image shows a musical score for a congregational choral benediction. It consists of two systems of music, each with a vocal line and a piano accompaniment line. The first system covers the lyrics "Let us live in the light, let us love in the light, and" and the second system covers "let the Spir - it do its work in us." The piano accompaniment includes chord symbols above the notes: C, G/B, Am, Em, Em7, F, G9/F, C, C#dim7 in the first system, and Dm, Am/E, Dm7/F, F#dim, Gsus, G, Csus, C in the second system. The music is written in 2/2 time and features a simple, hymn-like melody.

"Let us Live in the Light" words and music by Barbara Hamm © 2002 Abingdon Press. All rights reserved. Reprinted under OneLicense.net #A710121.

First Congregational UCC, Manhattan—an Open and Affirming Congregation

In the spirit of love, openness, and inclusiveness we welcome persons of every race, culture, nationality, age, family configuration, gender, gender expression, sexual orientation, physical or mental ability, and socio-economic status to participate fully in all aspects of our church's life and ministry. —from *Open and Affirming Statement* adopted May 11, 2003

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.

THIS WEEK AT A GLANCE

THIS SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 12-COVENANT SUNDAY

- 8:30 a.m. Choir Rehearsal
- 9:30 a.m. Sunday School for all Ages
- 10:45 a.m. Service of the Word
- 12:00 p.m. Fellowship Hour
- 12:00 p.m. Congregational Meeting
- 3:00 p.m. Hands of Friendship Concert, Sanctuary
- 6:00 p.m. Second Helping

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 13

- 5:15 p.m. Yoga, Andover Hall
- 6:45 p.m. Timeless A Cappella, Pioneer/Blachly Halls
- 7:30 p.m. MOA Narcotics Anonymous meeting, Art Room

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 14

- 7:00 p.m. ECM committee meeting, Conference Room

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 15

- 7:00 p.m. Cabinet meeting, Conference Room
- 7:00 p.m. Turning Point AA meeting, Andover Hall

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 16

- 7:00 p.m. Taizé Service, Pioneer Hall
- 8:00 p.m. MOA Narcotics Anonymous meeting, Art Room

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 17

- 6:30 p.m. Making Change Community Potluck, Pioneer Hall
- 7:30 p.m. MOA Narcotics Anonymous meeting, Art Room

NEXT SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 19

- 8:30 a.m. Choir Rehearsal
- 9:30 a.m. Sunday School for all Ages
- 10:45 a.m. Service of the Word
- 12:00 p.m. Harvest Potluck
- 6:00 p.m. Second Helping



*Join us on Facebook at
[facebook.com/uccmanhattanks](https://www.facebook.com/uccmanhattanks)*

Ecumenical Campus Ministry at Kansas State University is a cooperative ministry supported by the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), the United Church of Christ, and the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). For more information on ECM's activities and schedules, please visit us on Facebook (ECM at K-State) or at www.ksu.edu/ecm.



Hands of Friendship a Celebration in Music

3:00 p.m. Sunday, November 12, 2017
at First Congregational Church
Reception to Follow



Bethel AME Church Choir & First Congregational UCC Choir
Karen Hubbard and Gretchen Lewis, directors
Linnetta Hill, piano • Mary Ellen Sutton, organ • Robert Edwards, piano and organ

All Are Welcome Bring A Friend!

Making Change Community Potluck – Friday, Nov. 17 6:30-9:00pm

Join us for an evening of food and fellowship! This event is an opportunity to share and learn about the work of local community organizations and initiatives for change. Come build relationships with other community members who are leading and advancing advocacy efforts in MHK. For more information, contact Carol Sevin. <https://www.facebook.com/events/902478363239225/>

Harvest Meal Together – November 19 is our annual pot-luck meal together after church. Again this year, the Sherows are providing turkey; the Vitality committee will make dressing and gravy. You are invited to bring a dish 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.

Decorate the church for Advent/Christmas Saturday, December 2, 9:00 a.m.

The Board of Deacons is seeking volunteers to help decorate the sanctuary, lobby and Pioneer/Blachly Halls for Advent/Christmas on Saturday, December 2 at 9:00 a.m. Many hands make light work, so even if you don't have a decorative flair, please join us for some fun and fellowship! Juice, donuts, coffee will be served.

Congregational Meeting Sunday, November 12

Please join us today for a Congregational meeting immediately following the morning church service. We will open the floor for discussion and review the 2018 proposed budget and slate of board and committee nominees.

Please note: the date printed in the November newsletter is Nov. 19, but November 12 is the new, correct date.

We are pleased to welcome Stephanie Mott to our pulpit today.

Stephanie Mott lives in Topeka, Kansas. She is employed as a Contract Mental Health Clinician at Valeo Behavioral Healthcare. Stephanie is the Founder/Director of the Transgender Faith Tour and President/Executive Director of Kansas Statewide Transgender Education Project. She is a columnist for Liberty Press and a volunteer blogger for Huffington Post. She has published more than 100 articles about being transgender. She has provided more than 400 workshops and presentations related to gender identity in venues from college classes to mental health centers to jails, prisons and hospitals. She is currently serving as the community liaison for transgender inmates with the Shawnee County (Kansas) Jail. She is currently serving as the state vice-chair of Equality Kansas. In addition, she is a board member of the Topeka Chief of Police Advisory Board and Capital City Equality Center, as well as serving on the advisory board for the Beacon Youth Group. Her awards include the Pioneer Woman from the University of Kansas Emily Taylor Center for Women and Gender Equity, the Kansas Stonewall Marsha P. Johnson Award for Exceptional Activism, and the Donna Love Award for Outstanding Social Work Student from Washburn University.

Christmas Sacks – The Common Table would like to distribute Christmas sacks again this year to the neighbors who attend Common Table meals. One church will provide socks, another will provide caps, etc. First Congregational has been asked to provide unscented toiletries for the sacks. Body wash, shampoo, and deodorant would be particularly helpful, and we anticipate making up 50 sacks. The deadline is December 17, and there will be a collection bin in the church entry. Thanks for everything you do for Second Helping and Common Table!

Thinking of You post cards... The “Thinking of You” cards located in the church pews are an awesome way to write a message to a member of our church family. It might be someone that you know is ill and needs some encouragement or someone you’ve missed seeing in church for awhile. All you have to do is write the person’s name on the front and the message on the back. Sign the card, then drop it in the offering plate and Sandy, our church secretary, will mail the card. It might brighten someone’s day beyond measure!

World AIDS Day – We are honored to host Manhattan's service for World AIDS Day again this year. The service will feature music, reflection, and a candlelighting ceremony. A great opportunity to slow down, remember those we love and light a candle in the darkness for HOPE. We'll have a brief reception with snacks and warm beverages after the service. Join us at 7:00pm on Friday, Dec. 1st in our sanctuary.

IMPORTANT HOLIDAY DATES

Sunday School and Children's Ministries

Nov. 19 and 26 - no Sunday School for adults or children

Nov. 26 - no KidsWorship or Sacred Space

Dec. 3, 10, 17 - pageant rehearsal and adult Advent class at 9:30

Dec. 17 - Christmas Pageant during worship

Dec. 24 - Jan. 15 - no Sunday School for adults or children

Jan. 21 - Sunday School resumes for all ages

Hello Friends,

These days we need not look very far to find violence and danger in our world. We used to have the luxury of distance, witnessing most of it on the nightly news or reading about it in the newspaper. Sadly, that distance has evaporated. With our smart phones and social media, every chirp of a Twitter update or notification from our favorite newsfeed, the world's troubles are directly at our fingertips. All of this instant information carries with it the potential to create mountains of anxiety within us while we await the next "breaking news" alert. Even some of our wrist-watches have been corrupted into aiding and abetting our fears, making world's problems forefront in our minds.

We as a church are faced with a difficult question: how do we keep ourselves safe AND profess our love for one another AND fulfil the need to congregate together in a way that walks the path of life in the way Jesus did? While I don't have the answer, I do know our congregation has some of the highest caliber individuals I have ever met and I believe the answer to that question can be found living within us and sitting next to us each Sunday. Therefore, our congregation is considering the development of a Safety and Security committee. We will need a few interested individuals to help sort through some of the issues we as a congregation face. This group will thoughtfully and deliberately explore how to best protect our church building and church family in a manner that reflects our values and our mission statement. This committee will be tasked with things like emergency planning, evaluating the safety of our nursery and classrooms (recommending upgrades as needed), and ensuring our building is as safe as it can be while still preserving it as a beacon of light for our faith and our community, through peace, unity, and inclusivity.

If you feel you are the kind of person who would like to help find solutions for navigating safely through the darkness of our current world, please find me to discuss this or add your information to the "Ministry Opportunities" sheet in our weekly programs. As we strive for peace in this world may we also gain some peace-of-mind as well.

With Love and Hope,
Steve Bishop

Ministry Opportunities

It's easy to get involved! Circle any of the below paragraphs, add your contact info, and drop into the collection plate. We'll be in touch soon to get you signed up or answer your questions. Thank you.

Poverty Truth Commission. As an outgrowth of the Poor Peoples' Campaign, motivated in Kansas by Rev. William Barber and his team at their visit to Topeka in August, there is an interest in building a Poverty Truth Commission in Manhattan. The Commission is based on a model that is been used in other states. People who are experiencing poverty would publicly share their own stories in a setting where those who have the power to make a difference would be present. Relationships will be built and concrete follow up plans will be made. We are seeking someone to serve on a Steering Committee with perhaps 5-10 other people from the local community. You would represent our congregation, plan the event, and collaborate efforts with the Vitality Committee.

Second Helping is in need of additional church hosts. The church host greets the guests, makes sure people have what they need, and generally monitors the progress of the meal. Volunteers will be paired with an experienced host until they feel comfortable with the position. The church hosts often get to know the guests over time, which is a privilege of the host position. If you would like to serve in this important role, please indicate your name and contact information on the line.

Ministers of Care. Do you have a heart for listening and holding sacred space? The Ministers of Care provide care and encourage the wider congregation to provide care for those in our congregation who are unable to regularly make it to worship, are in need of additional connection and support, or are going through a major life transition.

Grounds care in spring, summer, and fall requires mowing the church lawn, in addition to the church garden lot adjacent to the alley, prior to Sunday's worship (Thursday, Friday, or Saturday). In the winter it's a little different. Sign up for a whole week - Monday-Sunday - and if it snows, you "win" what is affectionately

called the snow lottery. You've got to clear the walkways with the church snow blower.

continued next page

Worship volunteers have many Sunday morning tasks. They greet at the door, read scripture, host fellowship hour, usher, contribute flowers, and offer the Word for Children. Sign up is easy!

Want to be a part of the ministry opportunities? Circle the paragraph that interests you and drop this paper in the collection plate with your name and contact information.

Name: _____

Phone number(s): _____

Email: _____

Tending God's Light

There are so many ways that we are all still, under our skin, adolescents. Delaying gratification, or planning for a possible future, or thinking beyond our own needs seem to be traits difficult to cultivate. Are we hardwired for not being able to see beyond the tip of our nose so that even planning can be a struggle? Which bridesmaid in this familiar and iconic tale from Matthew's Gospel are you? Would you remember to bring extra oil? Would you be ready for the night to fall? Or would you be left in the dark and unable to greet the bridegroom?

When psychologists test for how some people have developed the ability to delay gratification, they notice that those who are able to imagine a pleasant outcome to their choice—rather than thinking of it simply in terms of what they are giving up—are more likely to postpone one thing for something greater. Saving is about remembering what it is you are saving for rather than how little you have for now. Another way of saying that is this: we should think about today so that there will be a better future for ourselves and others.

If the Gospel is about nothing else it is about hope. Hope in a better world and in the genuine compassionate nature of human beings that a fully human Christ makes possible. Hope is a gift from us to the future. But only if we make that hope tangible and not just a dream we embroider on a cushion. What is it we need to do, and to what do we need to give so that the future will receive its gift from us? Who will benefit from the gift or pledge we make today? Who will receive it?

These are the things we might ask ourselves as we prepare our offering to the church of Jesus Christ. What will your church mean to the future? What do you imagine that future to be?

How will what you give today manifest itself for those who will be members of this church or residents of your town years from now? It's not what you give up, it's what you give to.

Those bridesmaids were split between those who imagined the future and those who did not.

They saw the connection between what they did today and what might happen tomorrow. Isn't that one of the things that is a sign of maturity? Be a mature bridesmaid and give to your church. The future is asking.

