



WORSHIP WEAVING

**MANHATTAN MENNONITE CHURCH
UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST FELLOWSHIP
FIRST CONGREGATIONAL UCC**

JANUARY 28, 2024, AT 10:45 A.M.

Welcome! If you are worshiping 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 encourage you to sign in using our online connect card at uccmanhattan.org/online. If you're worshiping with us in the sanctuary you can also sign in at either door, if you'd rather. Immediately following worship, we hope you'll join us for conversation or just stay put in the Zoom room if you're worshiping online. We look forward to greeting you there. If you have questions, please ask.

If you need accommodations, 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. Diaper changing stations are located in both restrooms on the main floor.

Children are welcome in worship (and we know they may need to wiggle!). Please reach out to Brandy McDonald (brandy@uccmanhattan.org) if you have questions about children's ministries. You may visit our website for information about Sunday School for children and adults during the school year.

WiFi password for FCUCC guest:
YouAreLoved

Our service is recorded so we can share it with those who may have missed worship today. If you are present in the sanctuary, you may be included in this recording. Please contact one of the pastors for more information.

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

Sanctuary Greeter: Lisa Tatonetti

Word for Children: Brandy McDonald

Zoom Sharer: Kerri Keller

Tech Team: Maitland Wood and Kael Stock

Reading Scripture: Jim Lewis

Fellowship Host: Judy Ahrens

Zoom Greeter: Linda Thurston

Worship Leader: Craig Weston

WELCOME

CENTERING MUSIC

"I Hope You Dance"

Alicia Santee-Davis, piano
Tia Sillers & Mark D. Sanders

CALLED INTO GOD'S PRESENCE: OPEN AND AFFIRMING STATEMENT

We affirm that:

Every person has equal worth as a special and unique creation made in God's image;

That 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.

That as agents of reconciliation and wholeness, we embrace justice and seek to support and offer sanctuary to all who suffer discrimination or who are disenfranchised from the community, and pledge ourselves to be a wellspring of faith for a diverse people in the heart of this community;

That in the light of the Gospel we will strive to comprehend and continue to appreciate more fully our differences and gifts;

That through grace, our love for God and neighbor may flourish.

Adopted by unanimous congregational vote, May 11, 2003

✧ **HYMN 18** (*The New Century Hymnal located in pew backs.*)

"Guide Me, O My Great Redeemer"

Cwm Rhondda

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

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (*unison*)

We want to touch the hem of your garment, O God: forgive us for being afraid to touch those who come to us for hope. We want to love the whole world: forgive us for ignoring our neighbor. We long for peace: forgive us for the pain we inflict on our families and friends. We want to share with those we love and like: forgive us for walking past those who need you most.

Forgive us, Loving God, that we do not excel in everything you call us to do. Give us grace: to carry the Bread of Life to the hungry; to offer the blessings of your Realm to everyone we encounter.

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

One: Listen to the Good News! Hope in God, for God's love has no ending;

Many: **God fills us with grace and hope, this day, and forever.**

**God hears our voice, and listens to our prayers,
freeing us to try again and again.**

Thanks be to God. Amen.

Adapted from Thom Shuman

✦ 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." If you are worshipping online, you can use the chat feature in Zoom. Please be mindful of other people's preferences about physical contact. If you prefer not to shake hands, you can let others around you know by pressing your palms together in front of your heart (as if in prayer).

✦ 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

Brandy McDonald

Children ages 3-1st grade are welcome to attend Kids Worship after the Word for Children. Children are walked up by staff/volunteer.

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Jim Lewis

Isaiah 43:18-25 (*First Testament page 638 in the pew Bible*)

Mark 2:1-12, 3:1-6 (*Second Testament page 34 in the pew Bible*)

SERMON

Pastor Melissa Atchison
Manhattan Mennonite Church

✪ RESPONDING

in hope and thanksgiving

OFFERTORY SENTENCE

Prefer to make an electronic contribution? Scan the QR Code at right with the camera on your smartphone to be taken directly to our donate page or visit uccmanhattan.org/giving to learn how to set up automatic giving. Thank you for being a part of our ministry.



OFFERTORY

Choir

"Precious Lord, Take My Hand"

Thomas Dorse, arr. Lloyd Larson

✪ 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 type your prayers into the chat.
We respond: Merciful God....**hear our prayer.***

PRAYER OF JESUS *(said in unison)*

You are invited to use whatever name for God you find most meaningful (Mother, Father, Creator, God, Friend, Holy One, etc.). Together, our names for God will create a beautiful chorus reaching out to the Holy.

Heavenly Parent, heavenly Mother,
Holy and blessed is your true name.
We pray for your reign of peace to come,
We pray that your good will be done,
Let heaven and earth become one.
Give us this day the bread we need,
Give it to those who have none.
Let forgiveness flow like a river between us,
From each one to each one.
Lead us to holy innocence
Beyond the evil of our days —
Come swiftly Parent, Father, come.
For yours is the power and the glory and the mercy:
Forever your name is All in One. Amen.

This version of the prayer was adapted from Parker J. Palmer.

GOING FORTH

to be messengers of good news

✦ **HYMN 179** *(The New Century Hymnal located in pew backs.)*

"We Yearn, O Christ, For Wholeness"

Passion Chorale

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

New to First Congregational? We'd love to meet you. Use the QR code at right to complete a Connect Card.



✦ **CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

✦ CONGREGATIONAL CHORAL BENEDICTION

(Sung two times)

"Let Us Live in the Light"

Chord progression: C G/B Am Em Em7 F G9/F C C#dim7

Let us live in the light, let us love in the light, and

Chord progression: Dm Am/E Dm7/F F#dim Gsus G Csus C

let the Spir - it do its work in us.

✦

POSTLUDE

"Gospel Train"

arr. Hall Johnson

Permission to print the music in this service obtained from One License with license #A-710121.

Generosity Spotlight – This week we give thanks for....

the Ministry of the Decorative Scissors. This joyful group meets in the "crafting bunker" every month or so to craft, nosh, and provide support to one another. Over the years this group has supported its members (many of whom are from the wider community) through life's ups and downs. They also excel at hospitality, helping new folks as they seek community. Plus, they are always ready to help with our crafting needs from backpack tags to greeting cards to quilts to Paschal candles, balloon arches and more!

Thank you for Being the Church!

THIS WEEK AT A GLANCE

THIS SUNDAY, JANUARY 28

- 8:30 a.m. Choir Practice
- 9:30 a.m. Sunday School
- 10:45 a.m. Service of the Word, Melissa Atchison guest preacher
- 12:00 noon Fellowship Hour
- 6:00 p.m. Second Helping

MONDAY, JANUARY 29

- 5:30 p.m. UFM Yoga Class, Blachly Room

TUESDAY, JANUARY 30

- 11:30 a.m. Book Study, Zoom

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 31

- 12:00 p.m. MOA Narcotics Anonymous meeting, Andover Hall
- 7:00 p.m. Turning Point AA meeting, Andover Hall

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 1

- 7:30 p.m. MOA Narcotics Anonymous meeting, Andover Hall

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 2

- 7:30 p.m. MOA Narcotics Anonymous meeting, Andover Hall

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 3

- 5:30 p.m. UFM Yoga Class, Blachly Room

NEXT SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 4

- 8:30 a.m. Choir Practice
- 9:30 a.m. Sunday School
- Youth Donuts
- 10:45 a.m. Service of Word and Sacrament
Fill the Breadbasket
- 12:00 noon Fellowship Hour
- 6:00 p.m. Second Helping



*Join us on Facebook at
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



Volunteers for Sunday, February 4

Greeter: Carolyn Hodgson

Fellowship Host: Kerri Keller

Zoom Greeter: Maseberg-Tomlinson family

Zoom Screen Sharer: Kerri Keller

Reading Scripture: Jennifer Edwards

Word for Children: TBA

Tech Team: Maseberg-Tomlinson family

Visit
uccmanhattan.org/sign-ups
to volunteer.

Worship Weaving – Our guest preacher for our final Sunday of Worship Weaving with the Mennonites and UUs is Pastor Melissa Atchison from Manhattan Mennonite Church. Welcome, Pastor Melissa!

We have also received this invitation from the other weavers:

Cinematic Sunday at UUFM: Leap of Faith

Feb. 4, 4-6pm

After Pastor Melissa's Sunday reflection at UUFM, many folks expressed intrigue about the film she mentioned: Leap of Faith.

UUFM invites you, your friends, and neighbors to Cinematic Sunday on February 4 from 4:00-6:00 pm. We'll screen Leap of Faith. This is a free event.

Afterwards you are invited to stay for a potluck and discussion of the film.

RSVP appreciated but not required: dre@uufm.net

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.

Calling All Journalers and Doodlers – If you're a person who enjoys writing, drawing, or journaling as a spiritual practice, you may be interested in having a special journal for the season of Lent. We are able to take orders for this custom notebook inspired by this year's Wandering Heart theme from A Sanctified Art. The cover includes the phrase, "Bind my wandering heart to thee" (the lyric from "Come Thou Fount" which inspired the theme title) and the heart icon set on one of the background paintings for the series. Inside are 140 dot grid pages perfect for journaling, sketching, sermon notes, and more.

You can order the journal yourself directly from A Sanctified Art (<https://sanctifiedart.org/special-products/wandering-heart-notebook>). If you're local and willing to pick up at the church, you can also join our group order and save a bit on shipping costs. To join the group order click here (<https://givebutter.com/NyuJLz>). Click "donate" and then indicate the number of journals you'd like to purchase. The deadline for the group order is Sunday, Feb. 4.

Celebrating Generosity – Those of us in attendance at the congregational meeting in November were witness to a passionate discussion about the physical needs of our building and the budget constraints that challenge our ability to fund needed maintenance and improvements. Since the meeting, several members have stepped up and made significant donations to this cause and the Church more broadly. These anonymous gifts include \$2,000 to the Facilities fund, \$30,000 to the General Support fund, \$50,000 to the Facilities fund and \$2,500 to the Church library. A heart-felt thanks to the donors who decided to support the Church with these gifts.

The Gifts, Endowment and Investments Committee would like to invite you to make a gift to one of our four support funds. You can read the full invitation and learn how to make your gift here: <https://bit.ly/420tUZC>

Questions? Please reach out to Rick Doll (rdoll@ksu.edu), Gifts, Endowments, and Investments.

KIFA Advocacy Days – Rather than having ONE set day to gather in Topeka during the 2024 legislative session, Kansas Interfaith Action is joining forces with several other organizations for a series of Advocacy Days. This allows you to choose what issues and dates might work best for you. Here are the current dates:

January 3: Equality Kansas (LGBTQ+ support)

February 5: WEALTH Day (climate action)

February 14: Medicaid Expansion

Check the KIFA website for more details and updates.

<https://kansasinterfaithaction.org/updates/2024-advocacy>

Candlemas Observance Feb. 4 – You are invited to bring a candle from home to be blessed during our observance of Candlemas on Sunday, Feb. 4.

What is Candlemas? This ancient Christian holiday commemorates the presentation of Jesus in the Temple and is always observed 40 days after Christmas (Feb. 2). When Jesus was presented in the Temple, he was greeted by a man named Simeon who gave this blessing: "Lord, now let your servant depart in peace, according to your word; for my eyes have seen your salvation which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and for glory to your people Israel" (Luke 2:29-32). The blessing of candles on this holiday serves as a remind of the light of Christ.

2024 Pastoral Sabbatical – Your church leadership continues to prepare for Pastor Caela's sabbatical. Caela will be on sabbatical from May 1 through August 17th, 2024. The focus of her pastoral sabbatical is rest, rejuvenation, and rejoicing. Caela's plans are still forming, but she anticipates her sabbatical will include space for spiritual retreats, travel with colleagues and family, and plenty of unprogrammed time for sabbath rest.

The sabbatical committee (Jennifer Edwards, Janet George, Tracey Weston) have been working with Caela, our boards and committees, and staff to ensure that everything will be covered in Caela's absence. It is their goal to communicate with the full congregation sometime in April about how various pastoral tasks will be handled while Caela is taking Sabbath.

If you have any questions about plans for the sabbatical, please don't hesitate to be in touch with Caela, Paul Hunt (moderator), or anyone from the sabbatical committee.

Upcoming ECM Events

Feb 2, 6pm: Vegan Baked Goods to Celebrate 5-Years of the ECM Sustainability Retreat

The ECM Sustainability Retreat will celebrate 5-years this spring! Come celebrate with ECM in the only way we know how--vegan goodies!

Feb. 3, 12-5pm: Native Garden DIY Workshop (with free food!)

A beloved permaculture expert, England Porter, will lead a workshop on the 12 Principles of Permaculture, and participants can plan their own gardens just in time for the Manhattan Seed Exchange on February 18. Free lunch from Baan Thai and snacks throughout the day! (KSU students are free to participate; local plant lovers have a suggested donation of \$10.)

Feb. 4, 1pm: Zoom Call About Making a Positive Impact on the Environment

Doug Tallamy is a TA Baker Professor of Agriculture and Natural Resources at the University of Delaware. His latest book, *Nature's Best Hope*, outlines a vision for humanity's relationship to our own lawn's in an effort to create a "homegrown national park".

Email ecmksu@gmail.com for more information about any of these events.

Grant-Writing Expertise Needed

Do you have any experience with grant-writing? Or are you generally skilled in technical writing and/or proofreading? We are applying for several grants this spring (two local and one federal) to support our facilities need. Pastor Caela is taking the lead on preparing the grants, but we need others with experience to help edit, proofread, and improve her initial drafts. If you're interested, please reach out to pastor@uccmanhattan.org.

January 28, 2024

Fourth Sunday after Epiphany

Today is Health and Human Service Sunday when we honor the work of the United Church of Christ's The Council for Health and Human Service Ministry (CHHSM).

Last year CHHSM's annual meeting was held in Denver, which gave Archway Homes a chance to showcase the work they have been doing in Colorado for fifty years.

"Since its founding in 1974, Archway Communities, initially established as Mountain United Church Housing, became Rocky Mountain HDC in 1995 and is now Archway Communities, has remained steadfast to its commitment to provide service-enriched affordable housing for very low-to-moderate income families in the Denver Metro region and Colorado Springs.

With 8 properties in the Denver metro and Colorado Springs (and two more in development!), we have been developing affordable housing communities, expertly managing properties, and providing essential supportive services to individuals and families for almost 50 years.

By integrating housing and supportive services, Archway Communities is helping 1,516 residents improve economically and socially. We are a faith-based non-profit that is affiliated with the United Church of Christ.

Archway wishes to create communities of dignity and respect for families, neighbors and staff.

Creating community requires a commitment to seeing the humanity and interconnectedness of all that we do.

It requires a willingness to step up with courage and decency, to do the hard tasks, and the ability to celebrate each triumph joyfully."

Find out more at Archway's website: <https://www.archwaycommunities.org/mission/>.

What are the health and human service organizations in your area? How can you celebrate and support them?



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The Rev. Caela Simmons Wood, Pastor
Paul Hunt, Moderator
Sue Zschoche, Pastoral Associate
Brandy McDonald, Director of Children's Ministries
Sandy Nelson, Administrative Assistant

Gretchen Lewis, Music Coordinator
Mary Ellen Sutton, Organist
Alicia Santee-Davis, Pianist
Brent Maner, Treasurer
Jeff Keller, Financial Secretary
The Rev. Christian Watkins, Campus Pastor