



ABUNDANT
life

I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly.
+ John 10:10

OCTOBER 27, 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: Brent Maner

Fellowship Host: Kerri Keller, Judy Ahrens

Tech Team: Anne Fredrickson, Janet George

Word for Children: Brandy McDonald

Reading Scripture: Susanne Gilmore

Zoom Sharer: TBA

WELCOME

CENTERING MUSIC

“Immortal, Invisible God”

Congregational Handbell Choir
Cynthia Dobrinski

Each week we are lighting a VOTE-ive candle in the sanctuary as we participate in 40 days of prayer and action before the election. Learn more at bit.ly/VOTEives

CALLED INTO GOD'S PRESENCE

One: God of justice, God of love,

Many: **God who calls out in the voices of the ancient prophets,**

One: Who demands that justice roll down like waters,

Many: **And righteousness like a mighty stream!**

One: Who calls us to do justice –

Many: **To do justice!**

One: To love kindness –

Many: **To love kindness!**

One: And to walk humbly with you, today and every day.

Many: **Make us instruments of your justice, of your peace, of your love.**

One: Beloved, come, let us worship God!

Many: **Let us worship God!**

✦ **HYMN 11** (*The New Century Hymnal located in pew backs.*)

“Bring Many Names” vv 1, 4-6

Westchase

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

✦ **AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

Mission Statement

The mission of our church 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.

✦ 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

Susanne Gilmore

Micah 6:6-8 (*First Testament page 821 in the pew Bible*)

John 13:1-17 (*Second Testament page 102 in the pew Bible*)

SERMON

Sue Zschoche

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**

"The Way of Peace"

Choir
arr. Sheldon Curry

✦ 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.

**Mother of us all,
who dwells within and beyond,
Sacred is your name.
May your holy vision for collective flourishing
come to fruition among us.
May your dreams of justice, love, compassion, and connection be
enfleshed on earth.
Provide us today with what we need to be nourished in body, soul,
and heart.
Forgive us for the harm we cause as we seek to forgive those who
have harmed us.
Lead us away from everything that destroys and liberate us from
the hands of evil.**

For you are the ultimate source of hope.
Your power-with exceeds all power-over.
Your presence incites eternal wonder.
All praise to you, our comfort and strength.
Amen.

This version of the prayer is by Rev. M Jade Kaiser, enfleshed.

GOING FORTH

to be messengers of good news

- ✦ **HYMN 575** (*The New Century Hymnal located in pew backs.*)
"O For a World"

Azmon

**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**

"What A Wonderful World"

Bob Thiele and George David Weiss

I see trees of green - red roses, too.
I see them bloom - for me and you.
And I think to myself,
what a wonderful world.
I see skies of blue - and clouds of white.
The bright blessed day - the dark sacred night.
And I think to myself,
what a wonderful world.

POSTLUDE

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

THIS WEEK AT A GLANCE

THIS SUNDAY, OCTOBER 27

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

MONDAY, OCTOBER 28

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

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 29

- 12:15 p.m. UFM Yoga Class, Blachly Room

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 30

- 9:30 a.m. Downtown Faith Collective, Blachly Room
- 12:00 p.m. MOA Narcotics Anonymous meeting, Conference Room
- 7:00 p.m. Turning Point AA meeting, Blachly Room

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 31

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

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 1

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

NEXT SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 3

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

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



*Join us on Facebook at
facebook.com/uccmanhattanks*

Volunteers for Sunday, November 3

Greeter: Carolyn Hodgson

Reading Scripture: Jim Mock

Fellowship Host: Bethany Stock

Zoom Screen Sharer: Jo Maseberg-Tomlinson

Tech Team: Henry, Jason, Jo Maseberg-Tomlinson

Visit
uccmanhattan.org/sign-ups
to volunteer.

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

all our Sunday morning sanctuary volunteers. Thank you to everyone who signs up to read scripture, serve communion, assist our head usher, greet, and more. Did you know we even have people who show up early to set up our Communion elements and stay after worship to tidy up all the materials in the pew backs? Thank you for Being the Church!

Second Helping Volunteer Opportunity -- The Second Helping is seeking volunteers for the following dates:

11/17: Cooks, crew

11/24: Lunch maker

Go to www.uccmanhattan.org, scroll down, and click on “Volunteer Sign Ups” to sign up now.

Stewardship – Thank you, Julie, for sharing your testimony with us during worship last Sunday. It was a joy to hear about the value of community and be reminded of the gifts we find when we live in community. If you missed Julie's testimony, you can catch it at www.uccmanhattan.org/pledge. We'd also recommend hearing Amelia's excellent sermon about the beauty of community and generosity on the Appalachian Trail also at www.uccmanhattan.org/pledge.

A reminder that THIS SUNDAY, Oct. 27th is Pledge Sunday. If you haven't already made your 2025 financial pledge, we would very much appreciate having it in hand by today. This enables our church leadership to have the most up-to-date information as they continue working on the draft budget for 2025.

Learn more and make your pledge of support at uccmanhattan.org/pledge.

Post-Election Interfaith Prayer – Whatever happens up and down the ballot on November 5, we know that our work continues. And we know that, in order to do our work, we must build the beloved community.

Join Kansas Interfaith Action from 12-1pm on November 6 for an interfaith time of prayer, song, and holding space as we celebrate, lament, and reflect prayerfully on the outcomes of this historic election season.

Register at <http://bit.ly/electionprayerservice>



TAKE TIME FOR TAIZÉ

Join us on the third Thursday of the month 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.

Adult Sunday School – 9:30 a.m. in-person (Andover Hall) or via Zoom.

Nov. 3: Justice and Witness, reflections on activist work

Nov. 10: Updates from the Common Table Board with Les Kuhlman

Common Table Update: Sunday, November 10, 9:30 a.m.

Please join us on Sunday, November 10th for an update about Common Table, as it prepares to transition to its new single location. How will the transition change our current Second Helping efforts? How can we stay involved and support the Common Table in its new form and new location? How can we help? Les Kuhlman from the Common Table Board will be with us in Adult Sunday School at 9:30 a.m. in Andover Hall (in the basement) that day to share updates and answer questions. You can join us in person or via Zoom. Everyone with an interest in Second Helping and the changes at the Common Table is encouraged to attend to learn more!

From your nominating committee – Thanks to everyone who has stepped forward to serve on a Board or Committee for next year. The slate will be voted on at the Congregational Meeting in November. There are openings yet for anyone who may be interested on the Board of Deacons and on the Board of Facilities. If anyone wishes to take one of these remaining slots, please let Jeff Watson know by Nov. 1. His email is jwatson40763@gmail.com.

Again, thank you for stepping out there to serve.

Your Nominating Committee: Jeff Watson, Craig Weston, Di Hinrichs-Toburen

Second Helping Request – If you're headed to Sam's or Cosco...

Sam's and Cosco have the large size cans and containers we love at 2nd helping. (How long do you think it takes to open 36 #300 cans of green beans?) Next time you head to one of the big stores, consider bringing home one or two of these items for Second Helping:

Ranch dressing	Breakfast bars	Instant oatmeal
Baked beans	Snack crackers	Mushroom soup

For more Second Helping updates visit <https://bit.ly/SecondHelpingUpdate>

All Saints' Sunday is Nov. 3 – On Nov. 3rd, we join with Christians around the globe in remembering our saints on All Saints' Day. We will name those who have died in the past year who we hold dear to our hearts. Please join us for worship as we remember our saints together.

You are also invited to bring your VOTE-ive candles back to worship on November 3rd. Together we will continue to pray for our nation as we go to the polls and give thanks for the witness of our collective prayers during this season.

Blessing Box – Many of our neighbors in Manhattan experience food insecurity, which means that there is not always enough food on their tables, or they are unsure of when or how they will eat again. You can help our community by helping to fill the Blessing Box, located on the west side of the entrance to the parking lot to the First Congregational Church, 700 Poyntz Avenue. It's easy to contribute: just pick up a few extra cans of soup, instant noodles, or other easy-to-prepare foods like peanut butter, crackers, and energy bars, and drop them off directly into the box. If it's full, and the Church Office is open, you can bring the food inside and someone else will add your donations later. The needs are real, and continue year-round; the box is often empty within 60 minutes of being filled. Please help us keep the Blessing Box filled, and thank you for your concern for your Manhattan neighbors!

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.



Love & Justice

Our Jewish forebears distinguished giving from charity by speaking of it as tzedaka from the Hebrew word for justice, "tzedek." The Talmud taught, "Tzedaka" is equal to all the other commandments combined."

Performing deeds of justice is among the most important obligations Judaism imposes on its adherents. "Charity" is a choice; tzedaka is a duty. While Jewish law urges people to give charity from their hearts and affirms generosity of spirit, it understands that waiting for inspiration to give means it might never happen. Giving for the good of the community is not simply a choice but an act of justice, hence a duty.

Jesus agreed. And he said, "Do not think that I have come to abolish the law... I have come not to abolish but to fulfill" (Matthew 5:17). Our modern concern for choice, and for giving from the heart, is not at issue unless it makes us disregard law and duty. The real issue is fulfilling justice, an embodiment of God's love. More than

benevolence and acting kindly, justice is behavior that pursues the common good as indispensable to personal and corporate well-being.

Giving God the best involves doing good, not simply feeling good. It means finding what is right for us in what is good for others in our congregation and beyond. Sacrificing to do so may be a duty—but we may also wish to make it a good choice...and let our hearts catch up.

The United Church of Christ is well-known for its commitment to justice as it wrestles with the pain of difference, in our own churches and beyond. The church is not only a charity!

(adapted from *The Big Secret of Giving: Hidden Treasures in Life and Church* by the Rev. William C. Green, United Church of Christ Publications)

Question for reflection

How is my giving to this congregation an act of love and justice?



**Commitment Sunday
is Oct. 27th.**

Learn more and make your
pledge of support at
uccmanhattan.org/pledge

October 27, 2024

23rd Sunday after Pentecost

“Take Heart”

Mark 10:46-52

Poor Bartimaeus. Blind and begging on the side of road just waiting for a kind soul to drop a coin or piece of bread into his wanting hands — perhaps even acknowledge his plight with an empathetic, “Take heart.”

But no one does.

Bartimaeus sits on what is most likely the infamous Jericho road, as Mark shares that Jesus was on the road leaving Jericho when he encounters the blind beggar.

It's not a safe place to be. It is an 18-mile stretch of dirt, stone and danger. It was this thoroughway connecting Jerusalem and Jericho where a Good Samaritan tended to a traveler beaten and left for dead. Perhaps it is fitting for Bartimaeus to be there, as he himself has been left for dead as one of society's forgotten ones.

Today, though, the Divine “take heart” speaks to Bartimaeus in the way of a growing commotion on the road. The shouts of the name “Jesus” reaches his ears. He knows the story of this man Jesus. He is the who makes the deaf hear and the crippled walk.

Could today be Bartimaeus' turn to be made whole?

Jostled about, Bartimaeus adds to the ruckus, waving his arms and shouting, “Son of David, have mercy on me!”

Others sneer at the beggar, commanding him to be quiet. Their seeing eyes are blind to the fact that even Bartimaeus is worthy of Jesus' healing mercies.

Bartimaeus shouts more loudly. Amid the many voices, Jesus hears that of the blind beggar, as his words are laced with faith. Bartimaeus is called out of the crowd and healed by Jesus.

The day will come, if it hasn't already, where we will find ourselves like Bartimaeus, sitting alone on a road no one wants to be on. We will find ourselves sinking into a pit of despair over some crisis or challenge that we just can't see a way out of.

But Bartimaeus whispers to us, “Take heart!” Never lose courage — even in the darkest night of the soul. Reach for Jesus. Cry out his holy name.

Don't let a cynical world silence your cries. Don't let your own doubts in the Faithful One mock that tiny mustard seed of faith you are desperately holding onto.

Be persistent. Be loud. Be like Bartimaeus. Shout with all your might, “Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!” And wait for your miracle to begin.

Gracious and Loving God, thank you for always being by our sides in our times of need. Continue to strengthen our voices so that our cries of help are loud and filled with faith. Help us to trust in Your mercies and remember that You are always making a way forward for us. Amen.



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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