

close to home



hope

NOVEMBER 28, 2021, 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 on the lawn 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 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. 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.

Thank you for caring for others by observing our health protocols. Please observe physical distancing of six feet from those you do not live with and wear a mask that covers your mouth and nose. Please stay home if you are unwell or have been asked to isolate. If you discover you've contracted COVID and have recently attended a church event, please notify the office. You can find full details at uccmanhattan.org/covid.

WiFi password for *FCUCC* guest:

YouAreLoved

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

Word for Children: Brandy McDonald

Zoom Greeter: Kerri Keller

Reading Scripture: Leslie Bell

Sanctuary Greeters: Jennifer Edwards, Brent Maner

Tech Team: Kerri Keller; Jason, Jo, Henry Maseberg-Tomlinson

CALLED IN GOD'S PRESENCE

One: Can one be homesick for something you've never known?

Many: **We are homesick for a just world,
for peace like rivers,
for the end of suffering.**

One: Yes, we are homesick —

Many: **for joy that is contagious,
for nations that feel like neighbors,
and for hospitals that run empty.**

One: We are homesick for the world God promises.

Many: **We are homesick, but we are on our way.**

One: God is here. God is still creating.

Many: **Let us worship our God.**

*Adapted from Rev. Sarah (Are) Speed
A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org*

CENTERING MUSIC

"Praise to the Lord, the Almighty"

Robert Edwards, organ
Johannes Walther

During the music, you may want to consider any prayers you'd like shared aloud during Prayers of the Church later in today's service. If you're in the sanctuary, you may write your prayers on the cards located in the pew backs. If you're worshipping online, you will be invited to type your prayers into the chat later in the service.

EXCHANGING THE PEACE

One: May the peace of Christ be with you.

Many: **And also with you.**

To allow for social distancing, please stay in your pew while passing the peace. If you are worshipping online, you can use the chat feature in Zoom. As a sign of our reconciliation, please greet those around you with words such as: "Peace be with you. / And also with you."

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

One: We hope for a world where all are fed.

Many: **We hope for a world with more bridges than walls.**

One: We hope for a world with wide open doors.

Many: **We hope for a world with contagious laughter.**

One: We hope for a world where trees grow tall and creeks run clean.

Many: **We hope for a world where all people feel at home – in their bodies, in the church, in their physical homes.**

One: We hope for that world.

Many: **We long for that world.**

One: We are homesick for that world.

Many: **So today we light the candle of hope, because hope keeps our hearts alive as we wait.**

One: May this light be a reminder that the wait is always worth it.

Many: **We are close to home.**

May we carry hope with us. Amen.

Sung Response

Tune: *Mendelssohn*

**Light the candles, deck the halls!
We are making room for all.
Practice hospitality, give in Christian charity.
And the greatest gift we share
Is a world that's just and fair
Though it feels so far away,
We work for God's promised day.
Prophets of the ages call:
"We must build a home for all!"**

*Liturgy by Rev. Sarah (Are) Speed
Hymn lyrics by Anna Strickland,
Commissioned by A Sanctified Art, LLC.*

☪ 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. If your family hasn't yet completed the COVID Screening Questionnaire for 2021-22, please scan the QR code to complete or walk with them up to Kids Worship to fill out a hard copy.



SPECIAL MUSIC

"Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silent"

Handbell Choir
Lewis/Thompson

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Leslie Bell

Joshua 1:1-9 (First Testament page 189 in the pew Bible)

*Psalm 25:1-4, 9-10 (Page 635 in The New Century Hymnal **read responsively**; all join in singing the refrain as indicated by the symbol R.)*

SERMON

Rev. Lorraine Ceniceros
Conference Minister-elect

☪ 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 PayPal page or visit uccmanhattan.org/giving to learn how to set up automatic giving. Thank you for being a part of our ministry.



MUSIC AT THE OFFERTORY

"Comfort, Comfort Ye My People"

Choir

✦ **DOXOLOGY** (Hymn 128 "In the Bleak Midwinter" v. 4)

What can I offer, poor as I am?

If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb.

If I were a wise one, I would do my part;

But what can I offer: all my heart.

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

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

You are invited to write down your prayer on the cards located in the pew backs and place them in the offering plate when they are passed. If you are joining us online, you'll be invited to type your prayers into the chat.

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

PRAYER OF JESUS *(said in unison)*

For Advent we are using a Womanist version of the prayer, written by the Rev. Yolanda Norton. As always, please use the name(s) for God that speak to your heart today.

**Our Mother, who is in heaven and within us,
we call upon your names.
Your wisdom come.
Your will be done, in all the spaces in which you dwell.
Give us each day sustenance and perseverance.
Remind us of our limits as
we give grace to the limits of others.
Separate us from the temptation of empire,
and deliver us into community.
For you are the dwelling place within us,
the empowerment around us,
and the celebration among us,
now and forever. Amen.**

✦ **HYMN** *(See insert.)*

"See, Fig Leaves Now are Sprouting"

*We invite you to sing loudly in your heart but **quietly** with your mouth as we limit the amount of aerosols released into the air. You could also consider simply mouthing the words or humming quietly, especially if your mask doesn't fit your face tightly.*

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

✦ **CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

✦ **CONGREGATIONAL CHORAL BENEDICTION**

*We invite you to sing loudly in your heart but **quietly** with your mouth as we limit the amount of aerosols released into the air. You could also consider simply mouthing the words or humming quietly, especially if your mask doesn't fit your face tightly.*

“All Earth is Waiting” (Hymn 121, verses 1 and 3)

All earth is waiting to see the Promised One,
and open furrows, the sowing of our God.
All the world, bound and struggling, seeks true liberty;
it cries out for justice and searches for the truth.

Mountains and valleys will have to be made plain;
open new highways, new highways for our God,
Who is now coming closer, so come all and see,
and open the door ways as wide as wide can be.

POSTLUDE



PRAYERS & FELLOWSHIP

Join us online Thursday evenings at 7:00 p.m. for prayers and fellowship. Visit www.uccmanhattan.org/online for Zoom links and more information.

THIS WEEK AT A GLANCE

THIS SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 28 –FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

9:30 a.m. Sunday School, in-person & Zoom

10:45 a.m. Service of the Word

6:00 p.m. Second Helping



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

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 30

11:30 a.m. Book Group, Zoom

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 1

11:30 a.m. Lunch Bunch at Mr. K's

6:30 p.m. World AIDS Day Concert, All Faiths' Chapel

7:00 p.m. Turning Point AA meeting, Blachly Room

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 2

7:00 p.m. Prayers and Fellowship, Zoom

7:30 p.m. MOA Narcotics Anonymous meeting, Conference Room

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 3

7:30 p.m. MOA Narcotics Anonymous meeting, Conference Room

NEXT SUNDAY, DECEMBER 5 –SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

9:30 a.m. Sunday School, in-person & Zoom

10:45 a.m. Service of Word and Sacrament

Fill the Bread Basket

6:00 p.m. Second Helping

Volunteers for Sunday, December 5

Sanctuary Greeters: _____ *2 needed*

Sanctuary Tech Team: TBA

Word for Children: Brandy McDonald

Reading Scripture: Jennifer Edwards

Zoom Greeter: Henry Maseberg-Tomlinson

Zoom Screen Sharer: _____ *1 needed*

Visit
uccmanhattan.org/sign-ups
to volunteer.

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



Have you considered a legacy gift to our congregation? Contact the Church Office or a member of our Gifts, Investments, & Endowments Committee to learn more about how your gift might help ensure a vibrant ministry through First Congregational for many generations to come.



New to First Congregational? – We'd love to meet you.
Text "I'm new" to 785-380-7772 or complete a connect card using the QR code at left.

More announcements at
www.uccmanhattan.org/news



A Place for You – "No matter who you are, or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here." At some point in your journey, you may discover that you are feeling a pull to deepen your commitment to our faith community. You may be wondering, "Hey, how do I become a member of this congregation?"

We are hoping to welcome a group of new members in December and if you're feeling a tug to consider membership, we'd love to explore that with you. You can reach out directly to the church office or you can learn more on our website here: <http://www.uccmanhattan.org/become-a-member.html>.

It would be ideal if you can reach out no later than November 28th if you're interested in joining with the group this December.

World AIDS Day Concert – We are honored to co-host Manhattan's observance of World AIDS Day on December 1st. This year we are partnering with students and faculty from K-State's School of Music, Theater, and Dance for a special concert featuring music and poetry from the AIDS Quilt Songbook. Join us on Wednesday, Dec. 1st at 6:30 p.m. at All Faiths' Chapel on the K-State campus. This is a great opportunity to slow down, remember those we love and light a candle in the darkness for HOPE.

Lunch Bunch December 1 – We join together in an opportunity to get to know one another, Wednesday, December 1st at Mr. K's, 3901 Vanesta Place (Grand Mere Village). Everyone is welcome to join us for lunch at 11:30 a.m.

ECM Open House – ECM is hosting an open house on Sunday, Dec. 5 from 2PM-4PM to celebrate 101 years of campus ministry at K-State!

Interactive stations with the history, programming, and more will be a part of the celebration. We will provide homemade egg nog and apple cider as refreshments. You will also experience some of our newest art from our artist of the month--a part of our 101 year celebration, too. Please spread the word with folks in your congregations.

Folks will be expected to wear masks, and we will have outdoor patio space available for others who prefer to remain socially distanced.

Sunday Parking on Poyntz – Parking on Poyntz is somewhat limited on Sunday mornings. There is a sign at the west end of the block that reads "Parallel parking except Sunday AM." You are encouraged to park at an angle to allow for more spaces on Sunday mornings, however, don't leave your car too long after the noon deadline or you will receive a ticket.



Poinsettias The Advent season brings the opportunity for you to provide poinsettias in honor of someone important to you as the church is decorated for Advent and Christmas. The cost to donate Poinsettias is \$10.00 per plant. Please complete the form below and return it to the church office with your check made out to “First Congregational UCC.” 700 Poyntz Ave., Manhattan KS 66502.

In Memory of: _____

In Honor of: _____

In Appreciation of: _____

Given by: _____

Many people retrieve their donated poinsettia after Christmas. If you'd rather leave yours at the church, please let us know here:

- I intend to leave my poinsettia at the church.
- I intend to retrieve my poinsettia after Christmas.



Advent devotionals – Advent devotionals and calendars are now available for pick up! Look for the plastic box outside the double doors that go into the office area at the church building or pick up in the lobby. If you'd rather have an electronic copy or need one posted in the mail, e-mail office@uccmanhattan.org to request. Our devotionals are from A Sanctified Art and include poetry, art, scripture, and space for reflection. There is also a one-page family Advent calendar for your refrigerator. It includes simple activities for people of all ages.

Advent Adult Study – Our Advent study in adult Sunday School will use Richard Rohr's devotional, *Preparing for Christmas*. You are welcome to order it on your own, or if you'd like the church office to order you a copy, please contact Pastor Sue. We meet Sundays at 9:30 a.m. in-person and via Zoom. You'll find the link at uccmanhattan.org.online.

Curators of Inspiration – If you follow us on Facebook, you know that we love to post inspirational, encouraging content. Some of that content is found and shared by our Curators of Inspiration. If you're a person who enjoys seeking beauty, enjoys photography, music and art AND you spend time on Facebook, you might also be a Curator! Contact Pastor Caela (pastor@uccmanhattan.org) if you're interested in learning more about how this group works and get ready to start seeking and sharing wonder in the world!



See Fig Leaves Now Sprouting

ES IST EIN' ROS' 7.6.7.6.6.7.6

Text: Anna Strickland (2021)

Music: Geislige Kirchengasäng (1599)

See fig tree leaves now sprout - ing Soon summer comes
Sun, moon, and stars a - bove us Speak of God's pro -

a - gain Cre - a - tion groans in la - bor For
mised day To make space for our new home This

God's reign to pass be - gin We wait with ba - ted breath
world must pass a - way When we are filled with dread

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2

Home-sick for
The words of

God's true kin -
Christ up-hold

dom
us:

Age
"A -

with-out
rise and

hate
raise

or
your

death
head*

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Joshua 1:1-9

After the death of Moses the servant of the Lord, the Lord spoke to Joshua son of Nun, Moses' assistant, saying, ²"My servant Moses is dead. Now proceed to cross the Jordan, you and all this people, into the land that I am giving to them, to the Israelites. ³Every place that the sole of your foot will tread upon I have given to you, as I promised to Moses. ⁴From the wilderness and the Lebanon as far as the great river, the river Euphrates, all the land of the Hittites, to the Great Sea in the west shall be your territory. ⁵No one shall be able to stand against you all the days of your life. As I was with Moses, so I will be with you; I will not fail you or forsake you. ⁶Be strong and courageous; for you shall put this people in possession of the land that I swore to their ancestors to give them. ⁷Only be strong and very courageous, being careful to act in accordance with all the law that my servant Moses commanded you; do not turn from it to the right hand or to the left, so that you may be successful wherever you go. ⁸This book of the law shall not depart out of your mouth; you shall meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to act in accordance with all that is written in it. For then you shall make your way prosperous, and then you shall be successful. ⁹I hereby command you: Be strong and courageous; do not be frightened or dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go."

Psalm 25:1-4, 9-10

To you, O God,
I lift up my soul.
O my God, in you I trust;
do not let me be put to shame;
do not let my enemies exult over me.
Do not let those who wait for you be put to shame;
let them be ashamed who are wantonly treacherous.
Make me to know your ways, O God;
teach me your paths.
God leads the humble in what is right,
and teaches the humble God's way.
All the paths of God are steadfast love and faithfulness,
for those who keep God's covenant and God's decrees.



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

Gretchen Lewis, Choir Director
Robert Edwards, Organist
Mary Ellen Sutton, Organist
Brent Maner, Treasurer
Jeff Keller, Financial Secretary
The Rev. Christian Watkins, Campus Pastor