

WHATEVER YOU  
DID TO THE  
LEAST  
OF THESE...

T.A. Anderson

**MARCH 1, 2026, 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 hope you'll sign in using either the black pew pads or our Connect Card at [uccmanhattan.org/connect](http://uccmanhattan.org/connect). 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 the usher know. Hearing assist devices, wheelchairs, and walkers are available. If you need to step out of the service for any reason, we can set up a tablet where you can continue watching the service from the lobby. The elevator provides access to all three floors of the building. Diaper changing stations are located in both restrooms on the main floor. Our lower level has wheelchair-accessible, all-gender restrooms.

**Children are welcome in worship** (and we know they may need to wiggle!). Please reach out to Brandy McDonald ([brandy@uccmanhattan.org](mailto: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:*** Carolyn Hodgson  
***Word for Children:*** Brandy & Jameson McDonald  
***Tech Team:*** Janet George

***Reading Scripture:*** Leslie Bell  
***Screen Sharer:*** Jack Sytsma  
***Fellowship Host:*** Kerri Keller

**WELCOME**

**CENTERING MUSIC**

“The Beacon”

Alicia Santee-Davis, piano  
Alison Sudol

**CALLED INTO GOD'S PRESENCE**

*One:* Tell me something good!

*Many:* **God loves you more than you could imagine.**

*One:* Tell me something good!

*Many:* **God loves all of creation more than you could imagine.**

*One:* Tell me something good!

*Many:* **God's love meets us in this service of worship. We are not alone.**

*One:* This is good news indeed!

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

✦ **HYMN 45** (*The New Century Hymnal located in pew backs.*)

“Christ is the Mountain of Horeb”

*Cristo es la Peña*

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

**PRAYER OF CONFESSION** (*unison*)

Merciful God, did we see you hungry and give you something to eat?

Did we see you thirsty and give you something to drink?

Did we see you alone and offer you compassion?

Or did we cross the street?

Did we avert our eyes?

Did we come up with every excuse in the book?

God, we long to be people who love our neighbors with the same  
overwhelming love that you have for them.

But we must admit, we have a long way to go.

Forgive us for the times when we let bias, scarcity, or fear get in the way of  
love. Give us the courage to try again.

With hope for a better tomorrow we pray, Amen.

## WORDS OF ASSURANCE

*One:* Even when we act with judgment,  
even when we are guided by fear,  
even when we turn our back on a neighbor in need,  
God does not turn God's back on us.  
So join me as we remember this good news:

*Many:* **We are seen.**  
**We are forgiven.**  
**We are invited to try again.**  
**Thanks be to God for this unending love.**

## ✦ EXCHANGING THE PEACE

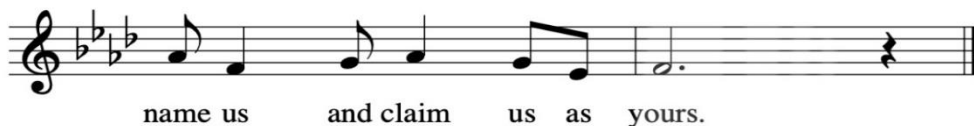
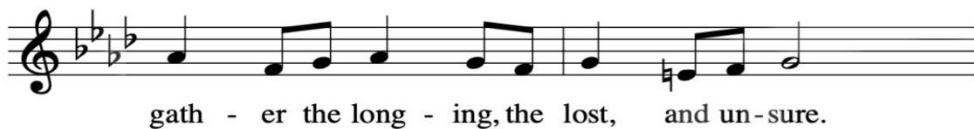
*One:* The peace of Christ be with you.

*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

"Merciful God" v. 2



## **☪ LISTENING**

*for our Still-speaking God*

### **WORD FOR CHILDREN:**

Brandy & Jameson 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**

Leslie Bell

**Amos 1:1-2; 5:14-15, 21-24** (*First Testament page 806 in the pew Bible*)

**Matthew 25:31-40** (*Second Testament page 27 in the pew Bible*)

### **SERMON**

Josh Brewer, Executive Director  
Habitat for Humanity of the Northern Flint Hills

## **☪ 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](http://uccmanhattan.org/giving) to learn how to set up automatic giving. Thank you for being a part of our ministry.*



### **OFFERTORY**

**“Dear Lord and Father of Mankind”**

Choir  
Sam Pottle

### **✦ 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.**

### **THE SERVICE OF SACRED COMMUNION**

*This is the table of Christ, not of this church. All are welcome and encouraged to join in the sharing of communion at Christ's Table, regardless of age or tradition, for this is the meal which binds all of us, different as we are, together.*

*If you are worshipping at home, please use any elements you have available. If you are joining us in the sanctuary, we will use gluten-free elements. The cup contains grape juice.*

## THE INVITATION TO THE TABLE

### PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

*One:* At the table of Christ, we eat this bread and drink this cup to remember the life and death and resurrection of Jesus, to be united with Christ and with one another as the church, and to look toward a time when all will be one.

*Many:* **As we eat and drink with thanksgiving, Christ is present with us and we are empowered by the Spirit to follow Jesus' way of love as the body of Christ, broken and blessed for the life of the world.**

*One:* O God, Ancient of Days, your love brought galaxies into being, summoned water and sky, earth and all creatures, and made us in your image.

*Many:* **Through the ages you have cared for all you created. When we wandered, you called us to return to you. In the fullness of time, you sent us the Messiah, Jesus Christ, to teach the law of love.**

*One:* He lived what he taught and loved his enemies to the end. In wonder, we remember the life Jesus lived, laid down, and took up again for us.

*Many:* **Send your Spirit upon us so that the bread we break and the cup we share may be the communion of the body of Christ. Send your Spirit upon us so that we can live, conformed to Christ.**

*One:* Jesus, on the night when he was betrayed, took a loaf of bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said,

*Many:* **"When you share bread together, remember me."**

*One:* Jesus took the cup after supper, saying,

*Many:* **"This cup is the new covenant. When you drink it together, remember me."**

*One:* The gifts of God for the people of God.

*Many:* **Thanks be to God.**

*Adapted from Voices Together,  
Mennonite Worship and Song Committee, 2020*

## SHARING GIFTS OF FOOD AND COMMUNION

*As we share Communion, you are invited to "fill the breadbasket." The gifts shared support the work of the **Blessing Box** ministry of this church.*

✦ **HYMN 330** (*The New Century Hymnal located in pew backs.*)  
"Let Us Break Bread Together"

*Let Us Break Bread*

**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.). If you speak a language other than English, please pray the prayer as you know it. We welcome other languages. Together, we create a beautiful chorus reaching out to the Holy.*

**Our God 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 messengers of good news*

✦ **HYMN** (*See page 9.*)

"I Come with My Devotion"

*Angel's Story*

**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

## "Ubi Caritas"

Refrain

U - bi ca - ri - tas et a - mor,  
Live in char - i - ty and stead - fast love,

u - bi ca - ri - tas De - us i - bi est.  
live in char - i - ty; God will dwell with you.

## POSTLUDE

"Weeping Willow"

Scott Joplin

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

### *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.*

# I Come With My Devotion

ANGEL'S STORY 7.6.7.6 D ("O Jesus I Have Promised")

Words: Anna Strickland (2025)

Music: Arthur H. Mann (1881)



I come with my de - vo - tion to love and serve  
I hear my Sa - vior's call - ing to serve the lost  
God made us in God's im - age each per - son whom



my God Whose lov - ing cos - mos formed me  
and least The hun - gry and im - pris - oned,  
we meet Ex - tra - va - gant - ly lov - ing



be - fore I e - ver sought The glo - ry of the  
the bro - ken ones like me For in each act of  
all of hu - man - i - ty So I'll re - turn the



hea - vens or praise on earth be - low So ev - ery  
kind - ness it's Christ for whom we care All wor - thy  
love which has formed me from the start — Lov - ing



gift I have now I lay be - fore the throne  
of our love — since it's God's face we bear  
my cre - a - tor, my - self, and ev - ery heart



## If God Lived Next Door

If God lived next door,  
I'd drop off a loaf of bread.  
I'd use my mom's best recipe.  
I'd wrap it in parchment and ribbon  
and place it on the front stoop.  
If God lived next door,  
I'd leave a note with my phone number.  
*Call anytime you need anything!*  
*I'm always happy to help!*  
If God lived next door,  
I'd keep sugar on the shelf,  
just in case she needed a cup.  
I'd put a picnic table in the front yard  
and begin taking my coffee there.  
Whenever God passed by with their gaggle of rescue dogs,  
I could say, *Want to sit for a moment? Want to rest your legs?*  
I'd keep a jar of dog treats and water by the mailbox  
and change my doormat to one that says:  
*All are welcome here.*  
I'd invite God over for dinner.  
She'd bring bread and juice.  
I'd host a block party,  
so that everyone could meet her.  
I'd start a community garden  
so that the kids could run between rows of squash and tomatoes  
while we adults put our hands in the dirt.  
We'd share stories while we weeded,  
and eat harvest meals at the end of the season.  
If God lived next door,  
I'd want to build something beautiful.  
Then again,  
who says she doesn't?



Poetry by the Rev. Sarah Speed

# **THIS WEEK AT A GLANCE**

## ***THIS SUNDAY, MARCH 1***

- 8:30 a.m. Choir practice
- 9:30 a.m. Sunday School  
*Youth Donuts*
- 10:45 a.m. Service of Word and Sacrament  
*Josh Brewer, guest preacher*  
*Fill the Blessing Box*
- 12:00 p.m. Fellowship Hour

## ***MONDAY, MARCH 2***

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

## ***TUESDAY, MARCH 3***

- 11:30 a.m. Book Study, Zoom
- 12:00 p.m. Clergy meeting, Andover Hall
- 12:15 p.m. UFM Yoga Class, Blachly Room

## ***WEDNESDAY, MARCH 4***

- 11:30 a.m. Lunch Bunch @ Baan Thai
- 12:00 p.m. MOA Narcotics Anonymous meeting, Andover Hall
- 5:15 p.m. Board of Deacons meeting, Zoom
- 5:30 p.m. Board of Christian Education meeting, Zoom
- 6:30 p.m. Board of Mission meeting, Zoom
- 7:00 p.m. Turning Point AA meeting, Andover Hall

## ***THURSDAY, MARCH 5 - OFFICE REMOTE***

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

## ***FRIDAY, MARCH 6 - OFFICE REMOTE***

- 6:00 p.m. Singing Resistance, Sanctuary
- 7:30 p.m. MOA Narcotics Anonymous meeting, Andover Hall

## ***SATURDAY, MARCH 7***

- 10:00 a.m. MOA Narcotics Anonymous meeting, Conference Room

## ***NEXT SUNDAY, MARCH 8***

- 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  
*Youth Group Early Easter Party*



*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](http://www.ksu.edu/ecm)



## Volunteers for Sunday, March 8

*Greeter:* Daniel O'Connor

*Reading Scripture:* Judy Ahrens

*Fellowship Host:* Judy Ahrens

*Zoom Screen Sharer:* Kerri Keller

*Tech Team:* Maseberg-Tomlinson family

Visit  
[uccmanhattan.org/sign-ups](http://uccmanhattan.org/sign-ups)  
to volunteer.

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

those who help with snow removal in the winter. Not only do they shovel snow and spread ice melt on our sidewalks, ensuring our building is accessible not just for our congregation, but also for the many groups that use our building during the week. Thank you for using your time and energy to keep us all safe.

Thank you for Being the Church!

**Guest Preacher Josh Brewer** – We are excited to welcome Josh Brewer, executive director of Habitat for Humanity of the Flint Hills to our pulpit this Sunday. This past fall, Josh shared a sermon with our Mennonite friends that got rave reviews, so we invited him to come and speak with us, too. Josh has a wealth of knowledge about working for economic justice in our neighborhood and a kind and compassionate heart. Join us Sunday morning as we welcome him!

### Lunch Bunch: March 4@ Baan Thai

Lunch Bunch is an amorphous group of members and friends of Manhattan's First Congregational UCC. It gathers once each month for lunch and conversation, serious and silly. Please join us on the first Wednesdays of each month. Come every time, or whenever you can. We begin at 11:30 a.m. to order off the menu; some linger to 1:00, or so. The restaurants chosen vary from month to month, and from year to year.

Wed. Mar. 4      Baan Thai      1709 Fort Riley Blvd.

Wed. April 1:    Longhorn Steakhouse    505 Tuttle Creek Blvd.

\* Wed. May 6:    Chen's Chinese      2704 Anderson Ave.

\* *change from original schedule*

**Mission Spotlight** — Your Missions committee would like to thank the congregation for supporting our past local aid ventures. Our next project started on February 22 and runs through May 1st. We are collecting items for the Manhattan Emergency Shelter and the Crisis Center. The Crisis Center said the items listed in the top box go fast, but all items are needed. There is a box decorated with red and white stripes in the front lobby for donations.

Feel free to take this wish list with you when shopping...

### **Primary requests:**

- Pinesol (or like item)
- Aluminum Foil
- Silverware
- Full sized sheets and comforters
- Kids socks
- Ethnic dolls
- Aquaphor Healing Ointment (or like item)
- Face wash
- Tylenol/Ibuprofen (or like item)
- Ethnic Hair Care products
  - Hair grease
  - Sulfate free shampoo
  - Sulfate free conditioner
  - Hair gel
  - Edge control
  - Bristle brushes
  - Oil sheen
  - Leave-in conditioner

### **Also needed:**

- Infant Medication (pain and cough medicine)
- Healing ointment (or like item)
- Diaper rash cream
- Diapers (size 5 & 6)
- Pull-ups (sizes 3-4 T & 4-5 T)
- Dreft (or like item)
- Baby oil
- Baby lotion
- Baby powder
- Baby wipes
- Children's cold medicine
- Children's Tylenol
- Paper towels
- Cleaning sponges
- Dish soap
- Multipurpose cleaner
- Toilet cleaner
- Laundry detergent
- Dryer sheets
- Toilet paper
- Small disposable medication cups
- Adult cold and cough medication
- Disposable gloves
- Deodorant (sensitive & regular)
- Moisturizing lotion
- Body wash (reg. and sensitive skin)
- Toothbrushes
- Tampons
- Triple antibiotic ointment
- \$25 Dillons gift cards
- Tupperware all sizes
- Ziploc bags, all sizes (or like item)
- Batteries (AA & AAA)
- Twin sized comforters
- Clothes hangers

**Easter Memorials & Recognitions** — As we prepare our hearts during Lent, First Congregational UCC also prepares for Easter Sunday. We have fully transitioned to silk lilies for our beautiful display on Easter Sunday, and you are invited to recognize someone important to you with a donation.

The traditional donation requested during Lent was \$15 to reimburse the church for the cost of a lily. As we now have silk lilies, you are invited to make your donation in support of the Benevolence Fund. The Benevolence Fund provides those among our church and broader community with proactive support and short-term emergency assistance as determined by Pastor Caela. Your gift will be recognized during our Easter Sunday service.

Place your order by using this form or by e-mailing the church office. Please be sure to indicate in whose honor or memory the gift is being given. Your dedication will appear in the bulletin on Easter Sunday. If you have any questions, contact the church office. **Deadline is March, 31.**

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In Memory of: \_\_\_\_\_

In Honor of: \_\_\_\_\_

In Appreciation of: \_\_\_\_\_

Given by: \_\_\_\_\_

Please make checks payable to: First Congregational UCC  
If donating online at [uccmanhattan.org/giving](http://uccmanhattan.org/giving), please indicate “Easter lily” in the “add note/comment” section.

**Music for the Season** – Our friends at A Sanctified Art have curated a Spotify playlist that goes along with the “Tell Me Something Good” Lent series. We hope you can use this playlist in your car, on your walks, or during your individual prayer or meditation time during Lent. You can access the Spotify playlist here: <https://bit.ly/4r6qDmP>

**KIFA Day is March 10** – Join us for KIFA Advocacy Day at the Capitol! It'll be on Tuesday, March 10th, and we'll be advocating for KIFA's legislative priorities together! Join us for meetings with legislators, inspiring activists, and community building. Keep an eye out for more info!

Visit [bit.ly/KIFADay26](https://bit.ly/KIFADay26) to RSVP!

**MHK Singing Resistance Gathering:  
Friday, March 6 at 7:00 p.m.**

Many of us have been watching and learning from the people of Minneapolis as they've reminded us of the power of making music in a spirit of solidarity. Join us for an evening of singing with your neighbors on Friday, March 6 at 7:00 p.m. in our sanctuary. Jamie Bunce will teach us justice-oriented songs that will lift our spirits and create space for all the emotions we carry with us these days. All music will be taught by ear and all abilities are welcome.

## THE SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT

The good news is... great love for God and neighbor

Cover art "See You" by T. Denise Anderson

A Sanctified Art LLC | [sanctifiedart.org](http://sanctifiedart.org)

Inspired by Matthew 25:35-40

14"x18" Acrylic on canvas

### From the artist:

Throughout Matthew's Gospel, Jesus uses diminutive language to refer to people of importance<sup>1</sup> and describes small, humble things (like sheep, lilies, and sparrows) as precious. He uses a mustard seed in a parable about faith,<sup>2</sup> and tells his disciples to be like children.<sup>3</sup> For Matthew's Jesus, little is a big deal!



For that reason, we should pay attention to Jesus' use of the word "least" in this text. In a book where Jesus talks about little things being loved, the word "least" here takes on new meaning: most loved. Indeed, God loves everyone, but there are certainly those for whom God has a special affinity. As the Confession of Belhar states, "God is in a special way the God of the destitute, the poor, and the wronged."<sup>4</sup>

As I meditated on this scripture, the image of a doorway kept emerging, perhaps because the text wrestles with the notion of who is in and who is out. This piece shows an excerpt of the text and the word "least" is, ironically, the largest. Next to it is a door that is partially open, and there is some ambiguity intended in that. Is the door being opened or closed? For whom is the door opening or closing? From the viewer's perspective, on what "side" of the door do they find themselves? Are they being invited in or kept out? Are they doing the inviting or the excluding? In the same way Jesus asks the nations to consider where they will be in his eschatological vision, I invite the viewer to consider where they are relative to where God is. Where does the Savior see you? Where does your neighbor see you?

### Look

*Contemplate the paint drips in the artwork. What meaning or feelings do the words convey to you?*

1 For example: Matthew 11:11, 11:25

2 Matthew 13:31-32

3 Matthew 18:1-14

4 The Belhar Confession is a statement of faith originally professed by the Dutch Reformed Mission Church in South Africa in 1986 during the struggle against apartheid. It has since been



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The Rev. Caela Simmons Wood, Pastor  
Janet George, Moderator  
Sue Zschoche, Pastoral Associate  
Brandy McDonald, Director of Children's Ministries  
Jess Hemmer, Director of Youth Ministries  
Sandy Nelson, Administrative Assistant

Gretchen Lewis, Music Coordinator  
Mary Ellen Sutton, Organist  
Alicia Santee-Davis, Pianist  
Brent Maner, Treasurer  
Jeff Keller, Financial Secretary  
Campus Pastor, Jessie Kuehner