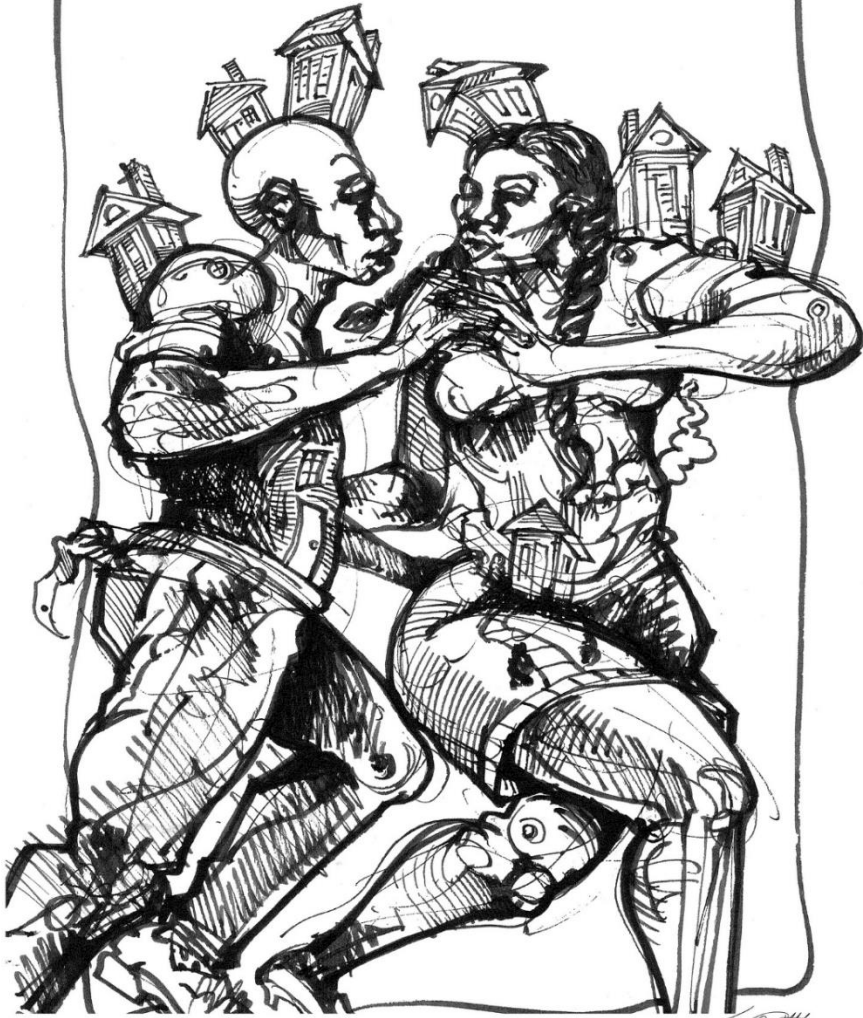


*we carry generations*



*[Signature]*



everything  
[in] between

stranger & neighbor

**MARCH 9, 2025, 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](http://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](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:*** Julie Appino  
***Fellowship Host:*** Mechelle Martinez  
***Zoom Sharer:*** Kerri Keller

***Word for Children:*** Brandy McDonald  
***Reading Scripture:*** Rachel Whetstone  
***Tech Team:*** David Simmons Wood

**WELCOME**

**CENTERING MUSIC**

“The Journey”

Handbell Choir  
arr. Arnold Sherman

**CALLED INTO GOD'S PRESENCE**

*One:* Here in this place, we can ask big questions.

*Many:* **Who is my neighbor?**

**How can I help?**

**What do I have to learn?**

**Where is God in it all?**

*One:* Here in this place, we can ask big questions.

*Many:* **So may we listen.**

**May we learn.**

**May we stay curious,**

**and may we look for God.**

*One:* This is our invitation to lean in.

*Many:* **Let us worship the one who invites us in.**

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

“Bring Many Names” v 1, 4-6

*Westchase*

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

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

**Holy God, you have told us to love our neighbors as ourselves, but we get tripped up on logistics. We want to know: who is our neighbor? Do we have to love the stranger? Must we have compassion for our enemy? Forgive our human tendency to create exceptions in the face of love. Rewire our hearts so that we might see the face of a neighbor in every stranger we pass. With hope we pray. Amen.**

**WORDS OF ASSURANCE**

*One:* When we set limits on love,

*Many:* **God loves extravagantly.**

*One:* When we forget that we are neighbors,  
*Many:* **God claims us as God's own.**  
*One:* When we judge, hold back, or harm,  
*Many:* **God surrounds us with grace.**  
*One:* There is nothing we can do or leave undone  
 that could separate us from the love of God.  
*Many:* **This is the good news of the gospel.**  
**Thanks be to God! Amen.**

✦ **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 worshiping 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**

"Sign Us with Ashes" v. 2

Gath - er your peo-ple, mer - ci - ful God,  
 gath - er the long - ing, the lost, and un-sure.  
 Gath - er your peo-ple, mer - ci - ful God,  
 name us and claim us as yours.

## **☪ 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**

Rachel Whetstone

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

**Luke 10:25-37** (*Second Testament page 68 in the pew Bible*)

### **SERMON**

Rev. Caela Simmons Wood

*“Go and Do Likewise”*

## **☪ 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**

**“I Want Jesus to Walk with Me”**

Choir  
Hal Hopson

**Verse 4: Choir and Congregation**

*I want Jesus to walk with me.*

*I want Jesus to walk with me.*

*All along my pilgrim journey,*

*Lord, I want Jesus to walk with me.*

### **✦ 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.*

**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.**

*A womanist version of the prayer by the Rev. Yolanda Norton,  
used at Grace Cathedral for the Beyonce Mass.*

## **GOING FORTH**

*to be messengers of good news*

---

✦ **HYMN** *(see page 7)*

**"I Saw a Stranger"**

*Kingsfold*

# I Saw a Stranger

KINGSFOLD 8.6.8.6 D

Words: Anna Strickland, 2024

Music: English trad., arr. Ralph Vaughn Williams, 1906



I saw a stran - ger on the road in need of help and  
I laid there des - perate by the road in need of help and  
In our em - brace the mem - o - ry re - turned from E - den's



care No clues to their i - den - ti - ty, just hu - man  
care As one by one they passed me by, too bu - sy  
dust Bone of my bone, flesh of my flesh, my kin whom



flesh laid bare A thought had flut - tered through my  
or too scared Then one ap - proached and my first  
I can trust The ar - ti - fi - cial walls we



mind: "Is this one of my own?" My tri - bal mind  
thought was "Do they mean me harm?" To my sur - prise  
build a - round the tribes we claim Make us for - get



made me for - get that they're bone of my bone  
they met my eyes and held me in their arms  
the gos - pel truth: "Be - lo - ved" is your name

# 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,*

The first system of musical notation is in 2/4 time, featuring a treble and bass staff. The melody is in G major. The lyrics are: "U - bi ca - ri - tas et a - mor, Live in char - i - ty and stead - fast love,". The word "et" is circled in the original image.

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

The second system of musical notation continues the melody. It includes a triplet of eighth notes in the treble staff. The lyrics are: "u - bi ca - ri - tas De - us i - bi est. live in char - i - ty; God will dwell with you.".

## POSTLUDE "Sensation"

Scott Joplin

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



## **THIS WEEK AT A GLANCE**

### ***THIS SUNDAY, MARCH 9***

8:30 a.m. Choir Practice

9:30 a.m. Sunday School  
*Youth Donuts*

10:45 a.m. Service of the Word

12:00 noon Fellowship Hour

1:00 p.m. ESA meeting, Pioneer/Blachly

5:00 p.m. Youth Group @ Common Table

7:00 p.m. Center of Hope Warming Shelter, Pioneer/Blachly

### ***MONDAY, MARCH 10***

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

7:00 p.m. Center of Hope Warming Shelter, Pioneer/Blachly

### ***TUESDAY, MARCH 11***

11:30 a.m. Book Study, Zoom

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

7:00 p.m. Center of Hope Warming Shelter, Pioneer/Blachly  
Private meeting, Conference Room

### ***WEDNESDAY, MARCH 12***

12:00 p.m. MOA Narcotics Anonymous meeting, Andover Hall

6:30 p.m. Board of Justice & Witness meeting, Zoom

7:00 p.m. Board of Facilities meeting, Conference Room

Turning Point AA meeting, Andover Hall

Center of Hope Warming Shelter, Pioneer/Blachly

### ***THURSDAY, MARCH 13***

7:00 p.m. Center of Hope Warming Shelter, Pioneer/Blachly

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

### ***FRIDAY, MARCH 14***

7:00 p.m. Center of Hope Warming Shelter, Pioneer/Blachly

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

### ***SATURDAY, MARCH 15***

9:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m. Ministry of the Decorative Scissors, Andover

7:00 p.m. Center of Hope Warming Shelter, Pioneer/Blachly

### ***NEXT SUNDAY, MARCH 16***

8:30 a.m. Choir Practice

9:30 a.m. Sunday School

10:45 a.m. Service of the Word

*Edith Guffey, Guest Speaker*

12:00 noon Fellowship Hour

7:00 p.m. Center of Hope Warming Shelter, Pioneer/Blachly



*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 16

*Greeter:* Eiselein family

*Reading Scripture:* Eiselein family

*Fellowship Host:* Eiselein family

*Zoom Screen Sharer:* Kerri Keller

*Tech Team:* Janet George

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

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

our Board of Justice and Witness. This group makes it easy for all of us to be involved in acts of advocacy and justice in Manhattan and beyond. They rely on our key partners like Kansas Interfaith Action and the wider UCC to make us aware of opportunities....and then spring into action. We are grateful for their passion and encouragement.

Thank you for Being the Church!

**Staff Availability** – Pastor Caela will be away from the office from March 14-22 for vacation. During this time Caela will not be checking e-mail, text messages, or voicemail. If you have a pastoral care need during this time, please contact the church office, Pastor Sue, or one of our Ministers of Care.

**Come and Find the Quiet Center** – Lent is the perfect season to carve out time for uninterrupted prayer or contemplation. You can use the sanctuary for quiet meditation whenever the building is open. If you're coming from a distance, you might want to call ahead to ensure no one else is using the space or to ask for the temperature to be adjusted. Pastor Caela has put together a basket of Prayer Resources that you can use while you're in the sanctuary. There are books featuring the writings of Howard Thurman, Marian Wright Edleman, Henri Nouwen, Rumi, Sarah Bessey, Ross Gay, and more. You can also share your written prayers in our spiral-bound prayer notebook for others to read. Just grab the basket from the bookshelves in the corner of the main lobby and return it when finished.

**Lenten Devotionals** – This year we have TWO options for free devotionals to help guide your Lenten journey.

1) Our Lenten Devotional Booklets from A Sanctified Art are available for pick-up in the church lobby or in the plastic box outside the office doors. If you prefer a web-based version or would like a hard copy placed in the U.S. mail, please contact the church office.

About the devotional: “Beginning with Ash Wednesday and concluding on Easter Sunday, this devotional follows Jesus through Luke’s Gospel. Each week offers commentary, poetry, visual art, hymns, and reflection prompts. We encourage you to walk through these weekly readings at your own pace throughout the season, following the rhythm that works best for you. The devotional features biblical commentary by our guest writers, Rev. Jeff Chu and Dr. Mindy McGarrah Sharp, and art and reflections by our guest artist, Steve Prince.” (from sanctifiedart.com)

2) For those who prefer a daily devotional, we are pleased to offer Daily Devotional cards via email. Receive a daily Reflection Question and Prayer. These cards were also created by A Sanctified Art and follow the same theme. If you’d like to receive one each day in your inbox, please email [devos@uccmanhattan.org](mailto:devos@uccmanhattan.org) and we’ll get you added to the list.

**Save the Dates: Lent and Easter 2025** – Lent is the 40 days preceding Easter and is a time when Christians traditionally cultivate their faith in more intensive ways. For some this may include giving something up or adding in a new spiritual practice. As a gathered community, we always include additional focused opportunities for worship and communal prayer. Because Easter is a movable feast (meaning, the date changes each year based on moon cycles), the dates for Lent change each year.

In 2025, the following dates will guide our journey through Lent and Eastertide:

Mar. 5: Ash Wednesday, the beginning of Lent

Mar. 9: First Sunday of Lent

Apr. 13 : Palm Sunday

Apr. 17: Maundy Thursday

Apr. 18: Good Friday

Apr. 19: Holy Saturday

Apr. 20: Easter Sunday

Jun. 8: Pentecost Sunday, which ends Eastertide

**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?”

If you're feeling a tug to consider membership, we'd love to explore that with you. We plan to welcome a group of new members on March 30th. You can reach out directly to the church office to express your interest. And if that date doesn't work for you, we can be flexible! Learn more about what membership means on our website: [uccmanhattan.org/join](http://uccmanhattan.org/join).

**Common Table** – Here's your regular reminder to support Common Table! You can volunteer any night of the week and there are many roles available (serving, greeting, bussing tables, washing dishes). It's more fun if you bring a friend (or 2 or 3) and volunteer together. Bonus points if you want to sign up for a regular shift like clockwork!

Visit the Common Table website to sign up: <https://www.mhkcommontable.org>

Support from community volunteers ensures that Common Table can continue to be part of the solution to meeting the needs of people in our community who are food insecure.

Please help us build community one meal at a time.



## 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.

### *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.*



THE FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT

everything [in] between stranger & neighbor

## Never Met a Stranger

When we talk about God, we say  
she's never met a stranger.  
She makes friends at the airport.  
She waves to babies in the check-out line.

When we talk about God, we say  
she'll leave the porch light on.  
She'll have warm bread in the oven.  
She'll have all the time in the world.

When we talk about God, we say  
she'll look you in the eye.  
She'll love you as you are.  
She'll call you by your name.

When we talk about God,  
we never have to talk about  
which side of the road she might walk down.  
Wherever you are,  
that's where she'll be.

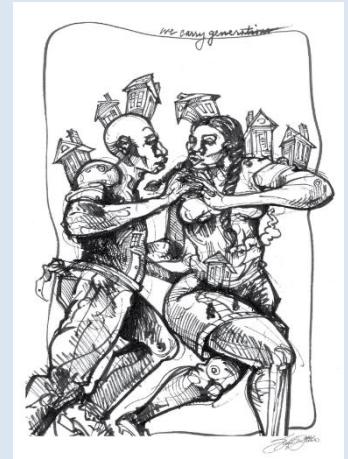
## THE FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT

everything [in] between **stranger & neighbor**

Cover art “Neighbors” by Steve Prince  
A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org

Inspired by Luke 10:25-37

*Ink on paper*



From the artist:

Each individual carries generations within them, made up of billions of people who have occupied this earth before us. We have an individual and collective responsibility to be good stewards (Good Samaritans) of our bodies, neighbors, and communities, rooted in love. Every day we make a dance of life and death—celebrating the entrance and exit of life, the progression of age and maturity, and the expansion of our tent, grafting to people who share our blood and our beliefs. We are the structures, those temporal buildings that weather the storms, that creak and wither away daily, but are fortified by our relationships to each other and with the sharing of the good news planted by the Heavenly Father. This dance is an open profession of our vow to live by God’s commandments and find a way to collectively preserve the truth of our origin while moving as one communal body into an untouched future.

### Prompts for contemplation

- Observe the figures’ posture and movement. Do you see connection, conflict, or both? How does this reflect your own relationships?
- Focus on the textures and shading. What story might these elements tell about resilience or fragility?
- Pay attention to the empty spaces around the figures. What do these spaces evoke for you?
- Imagine yourself as part of this scene. What role would you play in this dance of connection, tension, and movement?



**700 Poyntz Avenue  
Manhattan, Kansas 66502  
telephone 785-537-7006  
www.uccmanhattan.org**

The Rev. Caela Simmons Wood, Pastor  
Lisa Tatonetti, 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  
Campus Pastor, vacant