You
belong.

August 30, 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. 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) 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: Eliot & Emerson Eiselein
Screen Sharer: Kerri Keller
Tech Team: Maseberg-Tomlinson family
Word for Children: Brandy McDonald
Reading Scripture: Ogden Wood
Fellowship Host: Deacons

☙ GATHERING *in the presence of God*

GATHERING MUSIC Tower Chimes

WELCOME

CENTERING MUSIC Alicia Santee-Davis, piano

If you have a prayer you'd like shared aloud during Prayers of the Church, you may write your prayer on one of the blue cards found in the pew backs. Please place your completed card in the offering plates when they are passed.

CALLED INTO GOD'S PRESENCE

One: We've gathered together in the presence of God
to offer our praise and our prayers.
Many: **We come before God with confidence,**
knowing that even when we can't find the words,
God's own Spirit is right here with us,
One: praying in us and for us,
Many: **giving shape to our wordless hopes and longings,**
One: and pleading for us before the throne of grace.
Many: **So let's come with joy to offer our worship**
to God who knows and loves us all.

re:worship

✧ **HYMN 21** *(The New Century Hymnal)*
"God Reigns O'er All the Earth" *Terra Beata*

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

✧ **AFFIRMATION OF FAITH** *UCC Statement of Faith in the form of a doxology*

All: **We believe in you, O God, Eternal Spirit,**
God of our Savior Jesus Christ and our God,
and to your deeds we testify:
You call the worlds into being,
create persons in your own image,
and set before each one the ways of life and death.
You seek in holy love to save all people from aimlessness and sin.
You judge people and nations by your righteous will
declared through prophets and apostles.

In Jesus Christ, the man of Nazareth,
our crucified and risen Savior,
you have come to us and shared our common lot,
conquering sin and death and reconciling the world to yourself.
You bestow upon us your Holy Spirit,
creating and renewing the church of Jesus Christ,
binding in covenant faithful people of all ages, tongues and races.
You call us into your church
to accept the cost and joy of discipleship,
to be your servants in the service of others,
to proclaim the gospel to all the world
and resist the powers of evil,
to share in Christ's baptism and eat at his table,
to join him in his passion and victory.
You promise to all who trust you
forgiveness of sins and fullness of grace,
courage in the struggle for justice and peace,
your presence in trial and rejoicing,
and eternal life in your realm which has no end.
Blessing and honor, glory and power be unto you. Amen.

✧ Exchanging the Peace

One: May 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

(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
Ogden Wood

Genesis 37:1-11 *(First Testament page 33 in the pew Bible)*
Romans 8:26-28, 35-39 *(Second Testament page 148 in the pew Bible)*

Sermon
Rev. Caela Simmons Wood

☙ *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

✧ 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
Zoomers, please type your prayers into the chat. If you do not want your name read aloud, please send your prayer as a direct message to the pastor.
*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.

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 487** *(The New Century Hymnal)*
"Surely No One Can be Safer" *Tryggare Kan Ingen Vara*

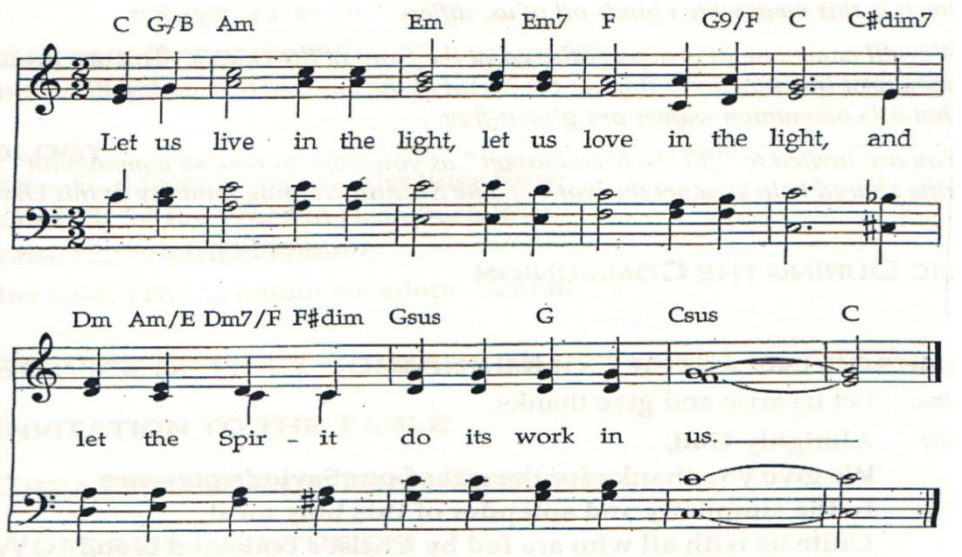
Sharing Opportunities to Love Unconditionally. Challenge Spiritually. Minister Fervently.

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"



Postlude

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.

THIS WEEK AT A GLANCE

Join us on Facebook at facebook.com/uccmanhattanks

THIS SUNDAY, AUGUST 30

8:30 a.m. Choir practice
9:30 a.m. Sunday School
10:45 a.m. Service of the Word
12:00 p.m. 5th Sunday Fellowship & Activities

MONDAY, AUGUST 31

5:30 p.m. UFM Yoga Class, Blachly Room
6:30 p.m. Actors Theatre Rehearsal, Andover Hall

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 1

11:30 a.m. Book Study, Zoom
12:15 p.m. UFM Yoga Class, Blachly Room

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 2

11:30 a.m. Lunch Bunch @ Friendship House, Wamego
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, SEPTEMBER 3 –OFFICE REMOTE

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

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 4 – OFFICE REMOTE

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

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 5

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

NEXT SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 6

8:30 a.m. Choir practice
9:30 a.m. Sunday School
Youth Donuts and Conversation
10:45 a.m. Service of Word and Sacrament
Fill the Blessing Box
12:00 p.m. Fellowship Hour

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, September 6

Greeter: TBA
Reading Scripture: Leslie Bell
Fellowship Host: Krista Danielson
Zoom Screen Sharer: Jack Sytsma
Tech Team: Rich Williams

Visit
uccmanhattan.org/sign-ups
to volunteer.

Generosity Spotlight – This week we give thanks for....
our Church Clerks. These two volunteers keep us organized by taking minutes at our monthly Council meetings, as well as at our congregational meetings that happen several times a year. They also keep track of our membership records, baptisms, weddings, and deaths in our congregation. We are grateful for their attention to detail. Thank you for Being the Church!

Fifth Sunday Festivities – Yay! August has five Sundays and once again the Deacons organized a special event to help us develop, celebrate, and appreciate our FCUCC community. Fifth Sunday Fellowship and Festivities is a time for us to gather after church in months where there is a fifth Sunday. What better way to do this than gathering for food, fun, and good conversation. We will have a semi-potluck meal, with the Deacons providing the main protein course; and not everybody will need to provide food! Come join the fun after worship. Besides food, we have activities such as conversation starters, crafts, a church trivia quiz, and more!

Acolyte & Church Service Training – Attention families of kids age 3 through 5th grade! Join us for one of our most popular Sunday school days of the year: Acolyte and Church Service training! On Sunday, August 30th during normal Sunday school time (9:30 am) Pastor Caela and Brandy will introduce (and re-introduce) kids to how to acolyte and other ways to be in service to the church. Children must be in Kindergarten or above to serve as acolytes but even the younger kids can serve in other ways. Our kids are a valuable part of our congregation and we want them feeling empowered to participate in the ways that fit them best!

Election Season Reminders – With another election around the corner, we want to remind everyone that as a 501(c)3 the church is not allowed to engage in any campaign activities related to candidates. We are only allowed to speak to issues. Please refrain from bringing any candidate campaign materials into the building. And, please DO be sure and check your registration and make a plan to vote. If you have any questions, please contact Pastor Caela, a member of the Board of Justice & Witness, or one of our moderators.

Lunch Bunch: Sept. 2 @ Friendship House – 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 Wednesday 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. Sept. 2	Friendship House	507 Ash Street, Wamego
Wed. Oct. 7	Smokin' Wille's BBQ	712 Fourth St., Wamego

Football Parking for ECM – Headed to a football game this fall? Consider parking at Trinity Presbyterian Church to support our campus ministry, ECM @ K-State! Parking is $10 cash or $12 with a card and includes a bottle of water and a shuttle to the stadium.

Back to School –

Caregivers, please fill out the appropriate form for your child(ren) for the 26-27 school year.

Children (birth-5th grade): https://bit.ly/4xTMxhl

Youth (6th-12th grade): https://bit.ly/4pep0UF

Please note that we need different information for the different programs, so please make sure you fill out the correct form for each child.

Any questions? Reach out to Brandy or Jess.

August 30, 2026 – Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost
"Spirit-Led Living"
Romans 12:9-21

I've been told all my life to stop wearing my heart on my sleeve — a saying popularized in William Shakespeare's *Othello,* where the villain asks, "Shall I wear my heart upon my sleeve for daws to peck at?" (By the way, a "daw" is a bird in the crow family.)

Shakespeare, though, can't take full credit for the saying. Its origin can be traced to medieval jousts when dashing knights would literally wear the affection of fair maidens in the way of ribbons and other trinkets tied to their armor sleeve.

Today, wearing one's heart is far from romantic. It's viewed as a negative trait of a sensitive soul that's weak. Yet saints like Catherine of Sienna and Thérèse of Lisieux saw sensitive souls as grace-filled gifts to the world.

So, for all you sensitive souls reading this, know that you are strong beyond measure and that the world needs such love and care on display. For that heart on your sleeve is beating with the heart of God, showing others what it truly means to live a spirit-led life.

Spirit-led living is something of a struggle these days as it is marked by authenticity and vulnerability. It also means doing that hardest thing we can ever do — love in all circumstances, especially when you are in the presence of your enemies.

Paul, the very apostle who told us to "rejoice in the Lord always," while imprisoned in Rome, was also the one who urged us to let love be genuine. If your enemies are hungry, feed them. If they are thirsty, give them something to drink.

While I've always appreciated Paul's advice, very seldom have I followed it. It's more satisfying (albeit a short-lived satisfaction) to stoop down to the enemies' level. But overcoming evil with evil, is not a marker of a spirit-led life. Rather, vulnerable love is, and such love is disarming in today's world.

There is no preventive to take to ensure we never get hurt, betrayed or rejected in life. I wish there was. But allowing true feelings to be expressed and not buried, allowing tears to fall with those who are hurt, makes for an environment where God can come and transform the gunk into something beautiful. And when our sensitive souls are on display, what we are showing is that we know our worthiness comes from God alone.

I don't know about you, but my heart will always be on my sleeve for all to see. Where is your heart?

Loving God, in a world of raging hate and distrust, may our lives reflect Your goodness and grace. Help us to stop trying to protect our hearts from hurts, but to share them openly. May this day the heart on our sleeves that the world sees be not our own, but Yours. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

(Rev. Donna Frischknecht Jackson is a communications specialist for the United Church of Christ and author of today's back page.)

First Congregational
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uccmanhattan.org

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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
Jordan Tilley, Financial Secretary
Jessie Kuehner, Campus Pastor