



SEPTEMBER 17, 2023, 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.

**Thank you for caring for others by observing our health protocols available at** [uccmanhattan.org/covid](http://uccmanhattan.org/covid).

**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 ----**

**Zoom Greeter:** TBA

**Word for Children:** Courtney Hochman

**Zoom Sharer:** Kerri Keller

**Tech Team:** Anne Fredrickson, Craig Weston

**Sanctuary Greeter:** Brent Maner

**Reading Scripture:** Judy Willingham

**Fellowship Host:** Linda Thurston

**GATHERING MUSIC**

Tower Chimes

**WELCOME**

**CENTERING MUSIC**

Mary Ellen Sutton, organ

“God Is My Salvation, My Help and Comfort”

Bach

**CALLED INTO GOD'S PRESENCE**

*One:* In this holy ordinary place, with these holy ordinary people,

*Many:* **God appears.**

*One:* In this holy ordinary time, in this holy ordinary life,

*Many:* **God is doing amazing, unexpected things.**

*One:* In our holy ordinary hospitality, in our holy ordinary laughter,

*Many:* **God catches us unawares, and provides the impossible.**

*Rev. Teri Petersen*

✦ **HYMN 24** (*The New Century Hymnal*)

“The God of Abraham Praise”

*Leoni*

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

✦ **AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

*Open and Affirming Statement*

**We affirm that:**

**Every person has equal worth as a special and unique creation made in God’s image;**

**That 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.**

**That as agents of reconciliation and wholeness, we embrace justice and seek to support and offer sanctuary to all who suffer discrimination or who are disenfranchised from the community, and pledge ourselves to be a wellspring of faith for a diverse people in the heart of this community;**

**That in the light of the Gospel we will strive to comprehend and continue to appreciate more fully our differences and gifts;**

**That through grace, our love for God and neighbor may flourish.**

## ✦ 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

*(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

Courtney Hochman

*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

Judy Willingham

*Genesis 18:1-15; 21:1-7 (First Testament page 13 in the pew Bible)*

### SERMON

Rev. Caela Simmons Wood

"Sarah"

**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 Know Not What the Future Hath”**

Choir  
text by John Greenleaf Whittier  
music adapted by Luigi Zaninelli

**✦ 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. This version of The Lord's Prayer is from A New Zealand Prayer Book from the Anglican Church.*

**Eternal Spirit,  
Earth-maker, Pain bearer, Life-giver,  
Source of all that is and that shall be,  
Father and Mother of us all,  
Loving God, in whom is heaven:  
The hallowing of your name echo through the universe;  
The way of your justice be followed by the peoples of the world;  
Your heavenly will be done by all created beings;  
Your commonwealth of peace and freedom sustain our hope and  
come on earth.  
With the bread we need for today, feed us.  
In the hurts we absorb from one another, forgive us.**

In times of temptation and test,  
 strengthen us.  
 From trial too great to endure, spare us.  
 From the grip of all that is evil, free us.  
 For you reign in the glory of the power that is love, now and  
 forever. Amen.

## **GOING FORTH**

*to be messengers of good news*

### ✦ **HYMN 426** (*The New Century Hymnal*)

*"O God, Whose Steadfast Love"*

*Rhosymedre*

**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"*

C G/B Am Em Em7 F G9/F C C#dim7

Let us live in the light, let us love in the light, and

Dm Am/E Dm7/F F#dim Gsus G Csus C

let the Spir - it do its work in us. \_\_\_\_\_

The image shows a musical score for the hymn "Let Us Live in the Light". It consists of two systems of music. The first system has a treble and bass staff with lyrics "Let us live in the light, let us love in the light, and". The second system also has a treble and bass staff with lyrics "let the Spir - it do its work in us." followed by a long line. Chord symbols are written above the treble staff in both systems.

## POSTLUDE

“The goodness of the Lord endures continually Ps:52:1”

Wagner

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

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

those who provide desserts for Second Helping. Cookies, muffins, brownie bars, and those beautiful cupcakes that Kerri drops off. Mmmm. Our desserts for Second Helping always look delicious. We are so grateful that you take time to lovingly prepare and package these sweet treats for our neighbors.

Thank you for Being the Church!

## Volunteers for Sunday, September 17

*Greeter:* Eiselein family

*Fellowship Host:* Bethany Stock

*Zoom Greeter:* \_\_\_\_\_needed

*Zoom Screen Sharer:* Kerri Keller

*Reading Scripture:* Jeff Keller

*Word for Children:* word from children

*Tech Team:* Jason, Jo, Henry Maseberg-Tomlinson

Visit  
[uccmanhattan.org/sign-ups](http://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](http://www.ksu.edu/ecm)



### *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**

## ***THIS SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 17***

- 8:30 a.m. Choir Practice
- 9:30 a.m. Sunday School  
Confirmation Class #2
- 10:45 a.m. Service of the Word
- 12:00 noon Fellowship Hour
- 6:00 p.m. Second Helping

## ***MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 18***

- 5:30 p.m. UFM Yoga Class, Blachly Room
- 7:00 p.m. MAC rehearsal, Pioneer/Blachly

## ***TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 19***

- 11:30 a.m. Book Study, Zoom

## ***WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 20***

- 12:00 p.m. MOA Narcotics Anonymous meeting, Andover Hall
- 3:30 p.m. Quintet Rehearsal, Blachly Room
- 7:00 p.m. Cabinet meeting, Zoom
- 7:00 p.m. Turning Point AA meeting, Blachly Room

## ***THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 21***

- 7:00 p.m. MAC rehearsal, Pioneer/Blachly
- 7:30 p.m. MOA Narcotics Anonymous meeting, Andover Hall

## ***FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 22***

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

## ***SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 23***

- 5:00 p.m. Confirmation Class visits local mass

## ***NEXT SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 24***

- 8:30 a.m. Choir Practice
- 9:30 a.m. Children's Sunday School  
No Adult Sunday School
- 10:45 a.m. Service of the Word  
*Fr. Shannon Kearns guest speaker*
- 12:00 noon Fellowship Hour
- 3:00 p.m. The Body's Rapture, sanctuary
- 6:00 p.m. Second Helping



*Join us on Facebook at  
[facebook.com/uccmanhattanks](https://www.facebook.com/uccmanhattanks)*





**New to First Congregational?** – We'd love to meet you. Use the QR code at left to complete a Connect Card or sign in using the clipboards at either entrance to the sanctuary.

**Hello families of kids birth through 5th grade!** – Please take a moment and fill out our child information form. We ask you to do this quick form once a year to ensure we have updated information for your kids. (Note that this year the form is separate from the youth form, so this one will just be for the kids 5th grade and under). It just takes a couple minutes! Ask Brandy if you have any questions.



**Time to Update the Directory!** – It's time to update photos in our church directory. Please consider having your individual and family photos taken after worship on Sunday, Sep. 17 or 24. (Think: iPhone snap not a formal portrait - no need to get dressed up.) Just look for us after worship in the main lobby or outside (weather permitting). We plan to print a 2023-2024 directory for those who would like a hard copy sometime in October stay tuned for info about how to request one.

If you'd rather upload your OWN photo or other information you can do that any time by logging into Breeze. Lost your Breeze login information? Contact the church office to get connected.

**Youth Learn and Serve** – Youth in middle and high school are invited to LEARN and SERVE on Indigenous Peoples Day, Monday, Oct. 9th. If you know of a teen who might enjoy joining us, please invite them. Learn more and register at [bit.ly/mhklearnandserve](https://bit.ly/mhklearnandserve).

**Save the Date: Second Helping Volunteer Celebration** – We'll be celebrating ALL of our amazing Second Helping volunteers on Sunday, Oct. 15. Save the date and join us to give or receive a blessing!

**Sermon Podcast Now Available** – Ever wished you could easily share a sermon with a friend or catch one that you missed? We now have a sermon podcast available so you can do just that. You'll find it on Spotify and Apple Podcasts. Just search for "First Congregational UCC of Manhattan, KS" or visit our website at [uccmanhattan.org/sermons](https://uccmanhattan.org/sermons). That same webpage has video and text manuscript versions of the most recent sermons as well.

**Next Week: Fr. Shannon Kearns** – Put it on your calendar. Invite a friend! We're thrilled to be hosting Fr. Shannon Kearns next week. Fr. Shannon will be with us in worship as a guest preacher and will perform "The Body's Rapture" at 3:00 p.m. in the sanctuary.

You'll find full details here:

<https://www.uccmanhattan.org/news/fr-shannon-tl-kearns-sep-24-2023>

Get to know Fr. Shannon (from his website):

“Shannon TL Kearns is a transgender man who believes in the transformative power of story. As an ordained priest, a playwright, a theologian, and a writer all of his work revolves around making meaning through story.

“Shannon’s first book *In the Margins: A Transgender Man’s Journey With Scripture* is available now from Eerdman’s Books.

“Shannon co-founded QueerTheology.com with Brian G. Murphy. Since its start in 2013, this work has reached more than a million people all over the world through videos, articles, and online courses and community. Their Queer Theology podcast is the longest running LGBTQ+ Christian podcast.”

**Call to Action from KIFA** – Kansas’ largest utility monopoly, Evergy, is proposing a rate increase for nearly 1 million Kansas customers. The proposed rate increase would be one of the largest in the company’s history, hiking Kansas customers’ bills between \$42 and \$170 per year. Yet Kansas’ utility rates are already the highest in the region, even before these increases!

At the same time, Evergy is pulling back on its commitment to close the coal plant in Lawrence; opposes every effort to allow its customers more access to solar power; and has no meaningful efficiency policies. In short, Evergy wants Kansas customers to pay more so it can pollute more, cause more respiratory harm and more climate disruption, and use more water, just its old polluting plants online even longer.

Tell the Kansas Corporation Commission to say NO to Evergy’s dirty rate hikes and YES to cheaper and cleaner forms of energy. There are several ways to share your thoughts with the Commission:

Submit a public comment by Sep. 29 using this online form:

<https://www2.kcc.ks.gov/pi/complaint.cgi?dkt=23-EKCE-775-RTS>

Submit a video public comment by Sep. 22 using this website:

<https://watch.jogg.co/r/xRkb>

Send a letter to the KCC Office of Public Affairs and Consumer Protection, 1500 SW Arrowhead, Topeka, KS 66604-4027

Or call 1-800-662-0027 or 785-271-3140

## Safety Reminders –

**AED:** The AED is located in the lobby next to the coat closet. An automated external defibrillator (AED) is a portable electronic device that automatically diagnoses life-threatening cardiac arrhythmias and is able to treat them through defibrillation, the application of electricity which stops the arrhythmia, allowing the heart to reestablish an effective rhythm.

Our AED is fully automated and requires no training or special skills to use. Our AED includes advanced features to help guide the treatment of sudden cardiac arrest and will verbally guide you through the AED and CPR process. Questions? Reach out to Anne Fredrickson, Board of Facilities.

**CPR Masks:** These kits include masks for adults, children and infants and allow mouth to mouth to be given in a way that protects both the rescuer and the person needing help. There is a mask on each level of the church: one in the nursery restroom, one in a kitchen drawer to the left of the fridge, and one in a drawer in the basement kitchen.

**First Aid Kits:** Located in the marked drawer in the kitchen.

**Narcan (naloxone) for suspected opioid overdose:** Located in the marked drawer in the kitchen. Narcan is designed to be used by any bystander without any training. The box has instructions on it.

Just wanted to make sure you knew we had this resource on hand!

*Caela*

**Building awareness:** Please take time to read the laminated cards in the sanctuary that detail how to exit the sanctuary if needed. You are also encouraged to look around the building for emergency exit routes and fire extinguishers when you are here.

**September 17, 2023**

**Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost**

Exodus 14:19-31

Road to Freedom

*Just Peace Sunday*

Even if you have not spent much time in church or in Bible study, the story of the crossing of the Red Sea is probably a little familiar. Take a look at the story with new eyes today, reading it through a lens that is new to you. What new message or insight do you get from this story by reading it in this new way?

A **literary** reading considers the story from the point of view of literature. How does the plot arc and flow keep you, as the reader or listener, engaged? What are some of the literary devices, such as use of language? Who are the characters and how are they developed? What is your point of view as a reader or listener? How does the story change if you consider it from another point of view?

A **historical** reading considers the story from the point of view of its place in history. Take into account the place and time that the story takes place. What is the culture of God's people and of Pharaoh's people at the time? What are other forces at work in these societies?

Another way to read a Bible story is as a story of **God's work in the world**. In reading this way, pay attention to where God is and what God is doing. What is God like in this story and how does this compare to God's presence in other stories? How does God look and sound? In what ways does God circumvent expected or natural law in order to accomplish Divine goals?

You may also want to read a scripture story **devotionally**, as a way to intentionally deepen your walk with God. In reading this way, read the story slowly three times. The first time, pay attention to any words or phrases that jump out at you and make note of them. The second time, read while asking God to show you God's purpose in the world. The third time, read asking God to reveal something that you need for your own particular faith walk.

Yet another way to read the Bible, and perhaps a particularly helpful one on this Just Peace Sunday (<https://www.ucc.org/just-peace/>), is through a **liberation theology** lens. Liberation theology is based on the fundamental value that God's preference is always for the marginalized and oppressed. As you read this way, look for clues that God is working for freedom for the enslaved, and disruption of systems of oppression.



**700 Poyntz Avenue**  
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The Rev. Caela Simmons Wood, Pastor  
Di Hinrichs-Toburen, 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