



FIRST CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST NEWSLETTER

Volume 55 Number 2

January 26, 2011

Sunday School at 9:30 A.M.	700 Poyntz Avenue
Sunday Worship at 10:45 A.M.	Manhattan, Kansas 66502
Second Helping Dinner at 5:15 P.M.	telephone 785-537-7006
Thursday Evening Taizé at 7:00 P.M.	www.uccmanhattan.org

Children in God’s Kingdom

The following article by Sean Weston is reprinted from the Plyndia Chronicles blog. The blog features reflections by folks who traveled from Kansas to visit our partner church—The Madhya Kerala diocese of the Church of South India. You can read more at: <http://theplyndiachronicles.blogspot.com>

Another day has left me thinking - we visited a school today - an all girl’s school managed by the Church of South India. At the morning assembly there were Christian, Hindu, and Muslim girls side-by-side.

It was as if we were rock stars. The girls seemed so excited to see us. Afterward, a bunch of them swarmed around us, asking our names. Their amazement was striking. The girls were elementary and middle school age. Then we met the principal of the older girls’ section of the school, like our high school, and spoke with her. She then took us around to the various *[continued page 2]*

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classrooms to meet with the classes. The girls, around ages 14-18 were so amazed to see us! Their eyes lit up.

Jesus’ words from Luke 18:17 came to mind during all of this: “whoever does not receive the kingdom of God as a little child will never enter it.” Contrasted to the reactions that adults had when meeting us (Peter spoke briefly to a marriage counseling class), children were much more impressed, in general. This observation isn’t really about us, however, as I don’t think we’re really that impressive. One could say the adults had it right. They probably have encountered more white people than the children had, and may also be more aware of differences due to our privileged place as Americans within the world order (I’m not sure). We had the same experience boating today, when the children from the shores were consistently so excited to see us.

But the sense of wonder is what amazed me. It’s not specifically about the way that Indian children greet this little group from Plymouth Church but about the way that all of us greet the world. And being here has so reminded me that I don’t usually feel like a little child—wondered, amazed, open—not limited by the boundaries of what the world says is “possible” or what “makes sense” or “works.” But I do feel that way here in India. And it is so wonderful. It seems that that’s exactly what Jesus was talking about. My experience tells me he was right. I feel closest to God’s Spirit and to the Kingdom here, when I feel like a child, when everything in the world is new and beautiful and the possibilities are limitless. When we can end poverty, hunger, sickness, disease, hatred. Even though conventional, “adult” wisdom says otherwise.

I’ve been so impressed with the Church of South India. I hope that when I come home, I might be able to remain open, like a child, to God’s work in Lawrence, Kansas and around the world. I feel renewed already by this beautiful place in the world called India.

Sean Weston

Sharing and Caring

Prayers and Concerns

Please call the church office for more information 537-7006.

Helping

- **Need a ride to church?** Contact one of our transportation volunteers: Jim & Carolyn Hodgson, Bill Pallett, Jeff Keller, or Mike & Martha Miller.
- **Home Communion Visits** The Deacons can bring communion to your home on the first Sunday of the month. Visits at other times can be arranged with the pastor.

E~MAIL PRAYER CHAIN

If you wish to be added to the First Congregational e-mail prayer chain, please contact office@uccmanhattan.org.



Thank You

- To the Gamma Omicron chapter of Epsilon Sigma Alpha International sorority for its recent \$100 donation to the Second Helping as well as their countless volunteer hours.
- On behalf of the Flint Hills Community Clinic, thank you for the First Congregational donation of \$250. Your contribution to our organization enables us to better serve our community.
– *Meghan Finnegan*

Kudos

- **Martin Luther King, Jr. Art and Writing Contest Winners Announced** Of the 258 total entries, Best of Show was awarded to **Cynthia Joan**, in the writing category. Winning entries are displayed at the Manhattan Public Library through the end of February.

Annual Meeting Notice

The Annual Meeting of the First Congregational United Church of Christ, Manhattan, Kansas, will be held on Sunday, January 30, 2011, following Morning Worship.

Save the Date—You ought to be in pictures!

It's time for a new pictorial directory! We will be working with Olan Mills to create a new pictorial directory of members and friends this spring. Photography will take place on Tuesday, March 29, and Wednesday, March 30.

The family of Paul Young would like to invite all church members to join him in celebrating his 95th birthday on Sunday, February 13, 2011 from 2-4 P.M. in the Community Room at Meadowlark Hills. No gifts please!



Festive Feasters

Festive Feaster starts again in February and continues through May. Groups of about eight persons meet once a month to share a meal and fellowship. There are no rules! Meals can be in our homes, at a restaurant, breakfast, lunch, dinner, picnic in the park, etc. Festive Feasters is a great way for people to get to know one another in our church family.



Contact the church office at 537-7006 or office@uccmanhattan.org if you would like to be included in a 2011 Festive Feasters group.

Women of the Church Lunch Bunch February 2

Join the Women of the Church for Lunch Bunch on Wednesday, February 2, at Paddy O'Quiggley's (at the Clarion Inn). It's not for women only—everyone is welcome to join us for lunch at 11:30 A.M.

Youth Corner

Souper Bowl of Caring February 6

The youth will be coordinating the Souper Bowl of Caring again this year.



Our goal is 200 items and \$200 for 2011.

All cash donations will go toward The Second Helping ministry of our congregation. It's not just about soup—contributions of all kinds of non-perishable food items are welcome. Feel free to bring in items on January 30 and February 6.



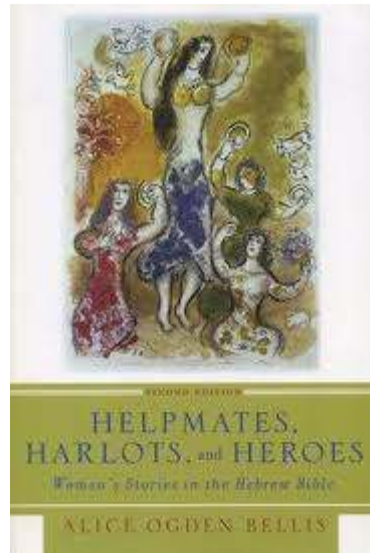
Thursday Evening BIBLE STUDY

HELPMATES, HARLOTS, & HEROES

The Thursday Evening Bible Study is taking up a new topic – Women in the Hebrew Scriptures – and our companion along the way will be the book *Helpmates, Harlots, and Heroes: Women's Stories in the Hebrew Bible* by Alice Ogden Bellis.

"In this significantly updated second edition, Alice Ogden Bellis continues to provide a broad and balanced sampling of feminist interpretations of the sweep of women characters in the Old Testament and Apocrypha"

— Katharine Doob Sakenfeld, the William Albright Eisenberger Professor of Old Testament Literature and Exegesis at Princeton Theological Seminary



Bible Study meets Thursdays at 5:30 P.M. in Blachly Hall. Feel free to bring a brown bag supper or snacks. Child care is available in the Nursery by prior arrangement – call the office for details. We conclude by 6:45 P.M. so that you can attend the Taizé service if you wish.

Copies of the companion book will be available next week. The price is \$16.

White Memorial Camp and Conference Center

Good News White Memorial Camp and Conference Center has been awarded a matching grant of \$30,000 from the Hopkins Foundation of Lyon County, Kansas for a High Ropes Course. The challenge now is to raise the other \$30,000 by the spring so we can have the course up and running before summer starts. The addition of a high course that is accessible to all will enable the camp to be more self-sustaining, enrich the lives of our camp family, and expand our conference participants.

First Congregational Church has been challenged by United Church of Christ in Drummond, Oklahoma to be part of this exciting addition to camp and help us reach this goal. Their contribution is \$1,000. Climb on! For more information please find us on Facebook or visit www.whitememorialcamp.com.

YES, Climb on!!!

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone (_____) _____

E-mail _____

\$100

\$1000

\$250

other _____

\$500

Please place me on the quarterly mailings

White Memorial Camp
1271 S. 1050 Rd., Council Grove, KS 66846

Phone: 620-767-5165

www.whitememorialcamp.com

Worship & Church Volunteers

January 30, 2011

Flowers Jean Hill and Virginia Bigbee
 Greeters *volunteers needed*
 Scripture Reader Vickie Korroch
 Word for Children ... *volunteer needed*
 Fellowship Hour Angela Hubler
 Snow Removal Brad Logan (*through February 5*)

February 6, 2011

Flowers Ann Smit
 Greeters Donna Keyser, *volunteer needed*
 Scripture Reader Judy Ahrens
 Word for Children ... *volunteer needed*
 Fellowship Hour *volunteer needed*
 Snow Removal Dan Clark (*through February 12*)

February 13, 2011

Flowers Kathy Bleam
 Greeters Barbara Withee, *volunteer needed*
 Scripture Reader Ann Smit
 Word for Children ... *volunteer needed*
 Fellowship Hour *volunteer needed*
 Snow Removal Brent Maner (*through February 19*)

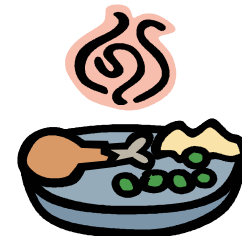
February 20, 2011

Flowers Rebecca Smock
 Greeters Joy Schell, *volunteer needed*
 Scripture Reader Donna Keyser
 Word for Children ... *volunteer needed*
 Fellowship Hour Joy Schell
 Snow Removal Bill Pallett (*through February 26*)

To volunteer, contact the church office at 537-7006 or office@uccmanhattan.org.

The Second Helping

The Second Helping is a local mission of First Congregational UCC. It serves a hot meal every Sunday evening and provides sack breakfast and lunch items to each guest. To volunteer, contact the church office at 537-7006 or office@uccmanhattan.org.



January 30, 2011

Chief Cook Brent Maner
 Volunteers Ann Gleason, Janine Stines
 Dessert Bill Pugh

February 6, 2011

Chief Cook *volunteer needed*
 Volunteers Ann Gleason, Caren Knicklebine,
 Kathy Bleam
 Dessert *volunteer needed*

February 13, 2011

Chief Cook Karen Franz or Bob Atchison
 Volunteers Ann Gleason, Manhattan Mennonite Church
 Dessert *volunteer needed*

February 20, 2011

Chief Cook Gretchen Lewis
 Volunteers Ann Gleason, Caren Knicklebine
 Dessert *volunteer needed*

Dessert volunteers needed

Attendance at the Second Helping meal is up and desserts are needed. Contributing a dessert is quick and easy! Items may be store bought or made in the church kitchen in order to comply with food safety regulations. Cakes, cupcakes, or cookies & ice cream are always a hit - but don't be afraid to think outside of the box, too! Please contact Sandy in the office at 537-7006 for more information.

Community News

2011 Bowl for Kids' Sake Fundraiser

The 2011 Bowl for Kids' Sake will take place March 5-6 at Little Apple Lanes. Big Brothers Big Sisters of Manhattan would appreciate your support for our largest fundraising event of the year. By being an event sponsor or providing a five-person bowling team, you can help make a difference in the lives of local children.

Big Brothers Big Sisters has one mission – to help boys and girls, most of whom are considered at-risk, achieve their full potential through long-term personal relationships with carefully screened and caring volunteers. We currently have 55 children waiting for mentors.

Please consider participating in the 2011 Bowl for Kids' Sake as a sponsor and/or team. If you any questions, please call Big Brothers Big Sisters at 776-9575.

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

700 Poyntz Avenue
Manhattan, KS 66502
(785) 537-7006

uccmanhattan.org



NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION
U S POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT NO. 478
MANHATTAN, KS 66502

Return Service Requested

Lost & Found

Among the accumulating treasures in the office are a child's blanket, one black glove, a Bible, a head band, and a ball cap. Please drop by to say hello and retrieve any thing you may have lost.

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat



1
7:00 Confirmation

2
11:30 Lunch Bunch
7:00 Board Meetings

3
5:30 Bible Study
7:00 Taizé

4
9:00 Crisis Center Meeting
6:00 Japanese Storytime

5

12
10:00 N.C. Assn. Committee on Ministry

6 - 5th after Epiphany
8:30 Choir Rehearsal
9:30 Church School
10:45 Worship & Communion
Souper Bowl of Caring
12:00 Fellowship Hour
5:15 Second Helping

7
12:00 Newsletter Deadline

8
7:00 Confirmation

9

10
5:30 Bible Study
7:00 Taizé

11
9:00 Crisis Center Meeting
6:00 Japanese Storytime

13 - 6th after Epiphany
8:30 Choir Rehearsal
9:30 Church School
10:45 Worship
12:00 Fellowship Hour
5:15 Second Helping

14
5:00 AAUW Dinner

15
10:00 N.C. Assn. Clergy Mtg.
7:00 PFLAG
7:00 Confirmation

16
6:00 Vitality Team
7:30 Cabinet

17
5:30 Bible Study
7:00 Taizé

18
9:00 Crisis Center Meeting
6:00 Japanese Storytime

20 - 7th after Epiphany
8:30 Choir Rehearsal
9:30 Church School
10:45 Worship
12:00 Fellowship Hour
5:15 Second Helping

21
12:00 Newsletter Deadline

22
7:00 Confirmation

23

24
5:30 Bible Study
7:00 Taizé

25
9:00 Crisis Center Meeting
6:00 Japanese Storytime

27 - 8th after Epiphany
8:30 Choir Rehearsal
9:30 Church School
10:45 Worship
12:00 Fellowship Hour
5:15 Second Helping

February

First Congregational
United Church of Christ
www.uccmanhattan.org



February Birthdays

1	Lysle Oppenlander	15	Carol Chalmers
1	Joanna Smit	17	Don Cannon
	Brad Logan	17	Nicholas Douglas
5	Andrew Barkley	22	Christine Crenshaw
6	Jan Lange	23	Martha Miller
7	Tim Keane	23	Donna Keyser
13	Damien Hebert	27	Dorothy Nonamaker
14	Kathryn Bleam	28	Lilly Marshall
14	Paul Young	28	Victor Force

February Anniversaries

10	Doyle Barnes & Sherwood Bishop
14	Marc Johnson & Karen Penner

February

Dates to Remember

- February 2*** Lunch Bunch
Board Meetings: Trustees, Deacons, Christian Ed. and Mission & Outreach
- February 6*** Souper Bowl of Caring
- February 7*** Newsletter Deadline
- February 16*** Vitality Team Meeting
Cabinet Meeting
- February 21*** Newsletter Deadline