



FIRST CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST NEWSLETTER

Volume 55 Number 21

November 30, 2011

Sunday School at 9:30 A.M.
Sunday Worship at 10:45 A.M.
Second Helping Dinner at 5:15 P.M.
Thursday Evening Taizé at 7:00 P.M.

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Manhattan, Kansas 66502
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We Can't Wait to see you on Sunday!

As I told the congregation on Sunday, I feel deeply honored to have been asked to serve as your Interim minister. I still find it difficult to believe that I get to love and serve a congregation that is held in such high regard in my heart. Kent left me big shoes to walk in, but I will do my best to honor his hard work and serve as your temporary shepherd. During this time I ask for your prayers and your patience. I am grateful to Sue Zschoche for navigating me through the interview process, and to Jeff Keller for helping to interpret a UCC contract to a Presbyterian. Sandy Nelson, administrative assistant extraordinaire, is helping me with the day to day items like keys and doors and forms... But in the meantime I cannot miss the irony that the first Sunday of your Interim time started on the first Sunday of Advent, the season of preparation.

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We tend to put a lot of pressure on ourselves during this time of year to make everyone happy and everything perfect. If that's not a set up for failure I don't know what is. During this season I would like to invite you not to forget the work of the soul. Take time to be still, to breathe, and to get in touch with the peace that is always within you. As you see family and friends, practice being truly present to them even if it is difficult at times. Next week my family will observe the eighth anniversary of my dad's death, there is an empty place at our table that no one else will ever be able to fill. The people and moments that we share together will not always be here, so see them for what they are, a great gift. So as we move through this season of preparation, of watching and waiting, be sure to create a spot in your heart that will hold the Prince of Peace.

Yours on the journey

Victor

E~MAIL PRAYER CHAIN

If you wish to be added to the First Congregational e-mail prayer chain, please contact office@uccmanhattan.org. It is a quick and easy way to stay up to date with your church family.



Sharing and Caring

Prayers and Concerns

- For more information please contact the church office.

Helping

- **Need a ride to church?** Contact one of our transportation volunteers: Jim & Carolyn Hodgson, Bill Pallett, Mike & Martha Miller, or Jeff Keller.
- **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.

Thank You

- To Mike & Martha Miller and Don Cannon for decorating the sanctuary.
- To Jerry Hanna for taking care of the recycling "since the beginning" and Tim Keane for taking care of the recycling from here forward.

Stewardship The 2012 Stewardship Campaign is wrapping up. As of November 28 we are about \$30,000 shy of our goal. If you have not yet completed your pledge card please contact the office with your pledge information so that the budget can be completed prior to the new year. —*The Stewardship Committee*

Announcements Please fill free to put community announcements in the Newsletter. In order to be good stewards of our worship time, we will use announcement time only for Church events.

Bible Study The Thursday Bible Study will begin again after the New Year. If you have ideas about what you would like to study, or if you would like to lead a study please speak with Victor or the Church office.

Day of rest Victor's typical day off will be on Fridays.

Annual Reports Due January 6 Please have your annual reports to the office as early as possible. We encourage you to turn in your report before the end of the year if at all possible. All reports should be received by **January 6, 2012**, in order to be included in the Annual Report Book.



Lunch Bunch December 7

Join the Women of the Church for Lunch Bunch on Wednesday, December 7, at Aroy Thai Cuisine. It's not for women only—everyone is welcome to join us for lunch at 11:30 A.M.

Computers for Sale

The church currently has two Gateway 500SE computers for sale. Please contact a member of the board of trustees if you are interested in purchasing one.

Technical specifications:

Gateway Model MFATXPNT NMZ 500SE

P4 1.8Ghz

400Mhz FSB

256KB L2

256MB DDR266 SDRAM

3.5" Floppy, CDRW



One unit has a keyboard and mouse. They both come with the Microsoft XP disk and Microsoft Office software. They also have an ether net connection along with a modem port. These computers **do not** include monitors.

The church would like to receive about \$100 apiece for them.

Mission & Outreach

The ECM and EWB (Engineers without Borders) will be having two fundraisers in December to help cover expenses for the Ecuador work trip in January. The group will be providing clean drinking water and improved sanitation to a small village.

Monday, December 5 from 5-10 at Orange Leaf. Treat yourself to frozen yogurt and awesome toppings with 10% going towards the trip—be sure to mention the Ecuador trip when purchasing your yogurt.

Monday, December 12 from 5-10 at Cold Stone. Rob Hayes, owner of Cold Stone is working diligently with ECM and EWB to promote the trip. \$1 for each apple sold; 15% of all chocolate products; and 10% of all ice cream sales will be donated towards the trip.

\$hop \$mart Grocery Certificates

It's the easy way to make a donation to the Church. Purchase your certificates after worship to use when you buy groceries. Buy the coupons at face value, spend them like cash, and the church receives a donation. Certificates are available for HyVee, Dillon's, and Ray's Apple Market.



Christian Education

The fabulous children's Christmas program is Sunday, December 11, during the church service. We have only Sunday, December 4, and some time on Saturday, December 10 to pull it all together. Please let Sue Gerth know whether or not your children plan to participate. If participating, please have your children in Sunday school on December 4. Also, it would be helpful to know whether morning or afternoon would be better for Saturday's practice.

Sunday School There will be no Sunday School Classes for children, youth, or adults on December 25 or January 1.

Nursery Care Christmas Eve Nursery care will be available for infants and toddlers during the Christmas Eve service.

Youth Group

Youth will be making the Second Helping meal on December 4. Please be to the church at 3:30.

The annual White Elephant Gift Exchange will be December 11 at 7:00 in the youth room. Please bring a wrapped gift \$5 or under to exchange.

Christmas Eve Worship

Choral and instrumental music, candles, Holy Communion, the Christmas story, hymns old and new, carols on the chimes, the Christmas Fund offering—plan to join us for the annual celebration of Christ’s birth. Friends or family visiting? Bring them along! **7:00 P.M. December 24.**



The Christmas Fund

Proceeds from the Christmas Fund Offering are used to provide gifts to clergy and lay employees in all stages of their lives and ministries to and through the UCC. Gifts to the Christmas Fund go directly to those who serve or have served the church, in their moments of critical need. In 2010 The Christmas Fund received over \$1,500,000 from across the United Church of Christ, and nearly 1,600 families were assisted. Our goal is to be able to provide at least \$1,650,000 in assistance from the 2011 appeal.

Amidst the depressed economic climate which continues to drag on, your gifts are needed more than ever to help the growing number of retirees whose low income annuities make it difficult to meet increasing living costs. An envelope is enclosed in this newsletter for your gift. You can mail it to the church or place it in the offering at worship. All offerings received at the Christmas Eve service are directed to The Christmas Fund. The Board of Mission and Outreach thanks you for your support of The Christmas Fund.



The Cobb Challenge: Going Green

And what does the Lord require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God. Micah 6:8

Does that sound like Black Friday? I thought not. If a loved one simply **MUST** have an X-box or an iPad you've got a problem no gadget will solve. Those things aren't bad in themselves unless they crush other values in the process of your getting them.

It doesn't have to be that way. Here are some local shopping alternatives: T-La-Re on Ft. Riley Boulevard is a store devoted to Reduce, Reuse, Re-Purpose, and Recycling. The owner makes sacks for you and each time you bring your own sack you get 10% off the purchase. The store features vintage and seasonal items, clever re-purposed gifts made from old ties, seed pods, etc. It's a great place to explore with children, for nostalgia, ideas, and unique gifts. Its Fair Trade merchandise also benefits laborers and artisans around the world.

Other local and Peace-full places to shop include the Encore Shop, Dusty Bookshelf, the Salvation Army, and Grand Old Trunk. For beautiful items benefiting local artists and the Manhattan Art Center, see "Wrap it Up" at the MAC.

Next time send me your ideas for **DOING** rather than **BUYING**. We can't improve on the first Christmas, but we may improve on our celebrations of it. — *Linda Richter*

Share ideas for future Cobb columns with Linda Richter.



Recycling at Church!

Bring your recyclable items with you to church and leave them at the collection point in the eastern passage between the Sanctuary and Blachly Hall. **Please bring your things through Blachly Hall on Sunday mornings.** Please sort your items according to marked containers, paying special attention to numbered plastics. Also, *they must be clean so they do not create odors or attract pests.* Plastic jugs, bottles, and metal cans must be rinsed clean.

Worship & Volunteers

December 4, 2011

Flowers	Advent Poinsettias
Greeters	Mary Ellen Barkley, Dan Barnes
Scripture Reader	Mary Ellen Barkley
Word for Children ...	Angela Hubler
Fellowship Hour	Jerry Hanna

December 11, 2011

Flowers	Advent Poinsettias
Greeters	Brad Logan, Lauren Ritterbush
Scripture Reader	<i>volunteer needed</i>
Word for Children ...	Children's Program
Fellowship Hour	Vickie Korroch & Elain Donnoe

December 18, 2011

Flowers	Advent Poinsettias
Greeters	Vickie Korroch & Elain Donnoe
Scripture Reader	<i>volunteer needed</i>
Word for Children ...	Linda Richter
Fellowship Hour	Carolyn Hodgson

December 25, 2011

Flowers	Advent Poinsettias
Greeters	<i>volunteers needed</i>
Scripture Reader	Myles Alexander
Word for Children ...	<i>to be announced</i>
Fellowship Hour	Ann Smit

*To volunteer, contact the office at 537-7006or e-mail
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 office at 537-7006 or office@uccmanhattan.org.



December 4, 2011

Chief Cook Brent Maner
Volunteers Ann Gleason, Youth Group
Dessert Youth Group

December 11, 2011

Chief Cook Sue Zschoche
Volunteers Ann Gleason, Wade Honey, 3-4 *volunteers needed*
Dessert *volunteer needed*

December 18, 2011

Chief Cook Gretchen Lewis
Volunteers Ann Gleason, Brad Logan, Lauren Ritterbush, 2-3 *volunteers needed*
Dessert *volunteer needed*

December 25, 2011

Chief Cook Ann Smit
Volunteers Smit Family
Dessert Ann Smit

Celebrate the Season

At First Congregational United Church of Christ

Sunday, December 4 at 10:45 A.M.

Advent II Service of Word and Sacrament—bring gifts of food, Victor Force preaching.

Sunday, December 11 at 10:45 A.M.

Advent III Children's Christmas Program

Sunday, December 18 at 10:45 A.M.

Advent IV Special Music by the Chancel Choir:

Friday, December 24 at 7:00 P.M. -- Prelude at 6:45 P.M.

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service. Communion will be observed. A service for all ages with stories, carols, and communion.

Sunday, December 25 at 10:45 A.M.

Christmas Day Service of Word and Music, Victor Force preaching; Carols and Hymns for all to sing.

Community News

Mayor's Holiday Food and Fund Drive

The Mayor's Holiday Food and Fund Drive is a community wide fundraiser that brings Manhattan together to help families in need. Hunger exists year round, however the need for food assistance is most intense in November and December because of the demand for additional necessities. During the holidays the Breadbasket distributes thousands of food baskets to Manhattan families in need.



It costs approximately \$38 to provide a food basket for a family of four. If you would like to make a donation, please make checks payable to: The Mayor's Holiday Tree, 905 Yuma, Manhattan, KS 66502. Your contribution is tax deductible.

Food donations are always welcome at the Flint Hills Breadbasket, especially during the Holidays!

**FIRST CONGREGATIONAL
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**

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

uccmanhattan.org




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Return Service Requested

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<h1>DECEMBER</h1>				1 World AIDS Day  7:00 Taizé	2 6:00 Storytime	3 1:00 Decorate Fellowship Halls
				4 Advent 2 8:30 Choir Rehearsal 9:30 Church School 10:45 Worship & Communion 12:00 Fellowship Hour 5:15 Second Helping	5	6
11 Advent 3 8:30 Choir Rehearsal 9:30 Church School 10:45 Worship – Children's Program 12:00 Fellowship Hour 5:15 Second Helping	12 12:00 Newsletter Deadline	13	14 7:00 Cabinet	15 7:00 Taizé	16 6:00 Storytime	17
18 Advent 4 8:30 Choir Rehearsal 9:30 Church School 10:45 Worship – Special Music 12:00 Fellowship Hour 5:15 Second Helping	19	20 7:00 PFLAG	21	22 7:00 Taizé	23 6:00 Storytime	24 7:00 Christmas Eve Service
25 Christmas Day 8:30 Choir Rehearsal 10:45 Worship 12:00 Fellowship Hour 5:15 Second Helping	26 Church Offices Closed	27	28	29 7:00 Taizé	30 6:00 Storytime	31
<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; display: inline-block;"> <i>Please submit Annual Reports to the office.</i> </div>						

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

1 Geneva Denholm	11 Simone Buelow
1 Vincent Hanna	15 Paula Caffey
4 Jim Mock	16 Linda James
5 Dona Sidorfsky	20 Joe Strawn
5 James Dunnigan	21 Karen Penner
6 Bill Pallett	26 Kerri Keller

DECEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

23 Damien & Jane Hebert
30 William & Caren Knicklebine



DECEMBER DATES TO REMEMBER

Dec. 3	Hanging of the Greens
Dec. 7	Lunch Bunch Board Meetings
Dec. 10	Children's Rehearsal
Dec. 11	Children's Program
Dec. 12	Newsletter Deadline
Dec. 14	Cabinet Meeting
Dec. 24	Christmas Eve Service
Dec. 25	Christmas Day
Dec. 26	Church Offices Closed