



# FIRST CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST NEWSLETTER

Volume 54 Number 5

March 10, 2010

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.

700 Poyntz Avenue  
Manhattan, Kansas 66502  
telephone 785-537-7006  
[www.uccmanhattan.org](http://www.uccmanhattan.org)

## Join our Tech~Savvy, Still~Speaking Outreach

### Follow Us on Twitter

It it's your thing, you can follow First Congregational UCC, Manhattan, on Twitter. If you go to our church webpage at [uccmanhattan.org](http://uccmanhattan.org) you can click on a link to follow the church on twitter. You will receive occasional timely reminders of what's up around the church.

### Visit Our Website

Visit [www.uccmanhattan.org](http://www.uccmanhattan.org) for links to the latest news of the United Church of Christ. You can also find copies of current and past calendars and newsletters. Soon, you will be able to listen to or download podcasts of sermons. The process of website development continues steadily.

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### Join Our Facebook Group

Keep up with the latest local church events, news and announcements by joining our First Congregational UCC Facebook group. You can join our group by searching for “First Congregational United Church of Christ” or become a fan of the national “United Church of Christ” page.



### April 16—the Big Launch

With over 30 “friends” already connected, we will utilize our Facebook group to help launch the newest “God is Still Speaking” commercial that debuts nation wide on April 16. Called “**Language of God,**” the 60-second video message is being produced by a national advertising firm known for its edgy, innovative video work. The new commercial will be kept under close wraps until introduced on the April 16 launch day at 9:00 A.M. (Eastern Daylight Time) via email, Facebook and [ucc.org](http://ucc.org). Our local group will also distribute the video on launch day. Don't miss out on the fun If you have other questions, contact the Vitality Team or Kerri Keller via [kdkeller@ksu.edu](mailto:kdkeller@ksu.edu) .

[uccmanhattan.org](http://uccmanhattan.org)

## Sharing and Caring

### Prayers and Concerns

Please call the church office 785-537-7006 for further information.

### Thank You

- Thank you for your generous contribution to the Manhattan Emergency Shelter's holiday campaign. The fundraiser generates nearly 10% of our yearly operating revenue, allowing The Manhattan Emergency Shelter to Help the Homeless Help Themselves in 2009 and beyond. We know that economically 2008 has been a challenging year for many. We are greatly appreciative that you found a way to give during these hard times, knowing that all gestures can have a big impact! Again thank you for your contribution! Sincerely, *Manhattan Emergency Shelter Staff*
- Thank you for the cards, phone calls and prayers over the last several months. I am happy to report that my treatments are over and I am getting back to 100%. I am touched by the outpouring of love and support you continue to show me. Thank you again. — *Jenny Clark*

### 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** are available by contacting the office or the pastor. The Deacons can arrange to bring communion to your home on the first Sunday of each month as we celebrate the sacrament in worship. Visits at other times can be arranged with the pastor.

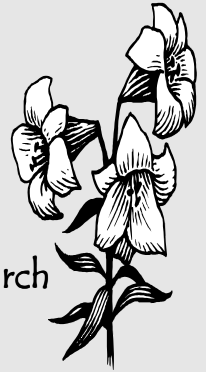
### E-MAIL PRAYER CHAIN



If you wish to be added to the First Congregational e-mail prayer chain, please contact [marianfuller@gmail.com](mailto:marianfuller@gmail.com).

### Easter Lilies

Honor family or friends by purchasing a lily for the Easter Day worship service on April 4. The lilies are \$10.00 each. Send your check and completed form to the church office or place it in the offering plate. Forms are included in this newsletter.



### Spring Ahead

**This Sunday, March 14, 2010  
Daylight Savings Time Begins.**

Be sure to set your clock ahead one hour on Saturday night.

### HOLY WEEK AND EASTER

*Palm Sunday – Sunday of the Passion*

**March 28 at 10:45 A.M.** Join the parade as we re-enact the Palm Sunday parade with music and a procession into the church. Then we will retell the passion story according to the gospel of Luke. The Chancel Choir sings music from Handel's *Messiah*.

Maundy Thursday

**April 1 at 6:30 P.M.** Join us in a simple supper of soup and bread in Blachly Hall. After the supper we will celebrate Holy Communion. Child care for infants and toddlers will be provided during the supper and worship service.

### Easter Sunday Breakfast

**April 4 at 9:30 A.M.** The Board of Christian Education invites you to begin the Easter celebration with a potluck breakfast at the church. Bring food to share—casseroles, sweet rolls, quick breads, fruit, or whatever strikes your fancy. Also, help us be “green” by bringing your own cutlery, plates, etc. Drinks will be provided. Sunday School classes do not meet that morning, so come enjoy food and fellowship. Remember, guests are always welcome!

### Festival Easter Worship

**April 12 at 10:45 A.M.** Celebrate the resurrection in a festival Service of the Word. The Chancel Choir presents music from Handel’s *Messiah*; Pastor Kent will preach.

### Easter Egg Hunt

**April 12 at Noon** Don’t miss the egg-citement on the church lawn following worship. The egg hunt is prepared by the First Congregational Youth and the Christian Education Board. There will be no regular Fellowship Hour on Easter Day.



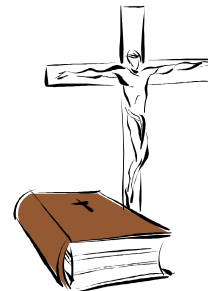
## Introducing Julie Rogers Our New Administrative Assistant

Those calling the church office are being greeted by a new voice this month. We welcome Julie Rogers as our new Administrative Assistant at First Congregational United Church of Christ. Julie is a long time Manhattan resident, and we are glad to have her become a part of our church community.



## North Central Association UCC Spring Meeting April 17

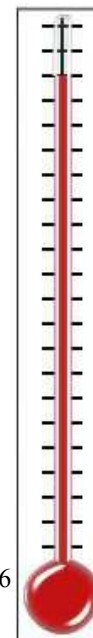
The Spring Meeting of the North Central Association of the Kansas-Oklahoma Conference United Church of Christ will be held April 17, 2010 at White Memorial Camp. Lunch cost and registration details are to be announced. The morning will be an opportunity to connect with other area UCC churches and to do the business of the Association. You are also invited to enjoy the Open House planned for that day at the camp from 1:00 to 5:00 P.M.



## Ecumenical Lenten Worship & Luncheons

The Manhattan Ministerial Association is sponsoring Community Lenten worship services at **Noon on Wednesdays** during Lent. Each service lasts about one half hour and is followed by a simple lunch. These events will be held at First Christian Church, Courthouse Plaza. Come as you are to share in worship and fellowship. Services continue on March 17 and 24.

\$150,000  
\$142,000



## Stewardship Update: Closing the Gap

Since the Annual Meeting on January 24, we have receive 3 new pledges totaling \$3,750. Five others have incrsed their pledges by a total of \$1,620. That means we are \$5,370 closer to our 2010 goal of \$150,000. Good Work!

If you feel you can increase your monthly pledge to the church, you can call our Financial Secretary, Joy Schell, at 537-7006. The more of us who can help out, the more quickly we can meet all the needs of our church budget and fully support the mission of the Body of Christ at First Congregational United Church of Christ, Manhattan.

## ECM Apartment Available

Available August 1, 2010, two bedroom apartment in the Ecumenical Campus Ministry building across the street from campus. All utilities paid; laundry facilities on premises; off street parking. \$800/month. Call David Jones or Sarah Taylor; 539-4281.

## Walk for Life

Life Choice Ministries, a local crisis pregnancy center, is hosting a Walk for Life on Saturday, April 17, to raise funds for their vital ministry to women experiencing crisis pregnancies. In addition to raising money, the Walk for Life will be a lot of fun, and those participating will have the opportunity to receive a free T-shirt and perhaps win a gift card. Walkers need to pre-register by March 29. **Team captain Dan Barnes can help you get registered.** Speak to him at worship on Sunday.



**OGHS**  
**Let's**  
**CHANGE**

## the World

During the season of Lent, you are invited to bring all of your loose change from home and put it in the offering plate. (The plates contain metal pie pans which makes for joyful noise and lots of smiles!) All of the loose change that is put in the offering plate during Lent will be added to our One Great Hour of Sharing Offering. So unburden yourself, make your load lighter, and change the world.

Checks and greenbacks can help us change the world too! Our **One Great Hour of Sharing Offering** will be taken on Palm Sunday this year—you are receiving an envelope and flyer in this mailing. Please consider how you can help people throughout the world with a gift to One Great Hour of Sharing. Thank you.

—*The Board of Mission and Outreach*

## Christian Education



**Nursery Toy Drive** We would like to replace some of the old and worn toys with newer toys for the nursery kids. Any kind of children's toys for ages infant to 3 years are welcome! Toys need not be new, but should be in good

conditions. Donations can be delivered to the office and would be very much appreciated.

## Children's Sunday School

Our Whole Lives Classes will not be on March 14 and 21, as the class teacher will not be available on those dates. On these "Spring Break Sundays" all children are invited to participate in a multi-age Sunday School class with activities for all. The regular schedule of children's classes resumes on March 28.

## Study & Discussion Opportunities for Adults

### That Strange Book—

#### a Bible Study on the Book of Revelation

Thursday Evening Bible Study is studying that mysterious book at the end of the Bible—Revelation. Join us Thursdays at 5:30 P.M. in Blachly Hall as we explore this often misunderstood yet influential book that is not like any other in the New Testament. Feel free to bring a brown bag supper or snacks. Child care is available in the Nursery. We conclude by 6:45 P.M. so that you can attend the Taizé worship service if you wish.

### Exploring Christian Spiritualities

#### An Adult Forum series during Lent

“I’m spiritual but not religious,” seems to be one of the mantras of our time. But what do we mean by “spirituality?” Spirituality is nothing new—most would say that it’s a part of being human. We will attempt to scratch the surface a bit, looking at some “ways” of spirituality. Still to come:

**The Way of Imagination.** Creativity and spirituality seem to go hand in hand for many. Why is that? What sorts of creativity seem especially spiritual. In this session, we will look at some of the poetry of George Herbert.

**The Way of Social Engagement.** Is Liberation Theology, a 20<sup>th</sup> century development, a spirituality? We will look at a few of the pioneering Liberation theologians.

## Worship & Church Volunteers

### March 14, 2010

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**Greeters**..... Jerry & Atina Hanna &  
..... Mike & Martha Miller  
**Scripture Reader**..... Jim Lewis  
**Word for Children** ... Jim Ahrens

**Fellowship Hour** ..... Jeff, Kerri, and Nicki Keller  
**Snow Removal** ..... Jim Ahrens (*through March 20*)

### March 21, 2010

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**Greeters**..... Donna Keyse & Joy Schell  
**Scripture Reader**..... Donna Keyser  
**Word for Children** ... Jim Mock  
**Fellowship Hour** ..... Jerry & Atina Hanna  
**Snow Removal** ..... William Knicklebine (*through March 27*)

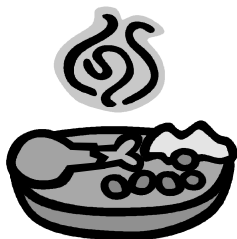
### March 28, 2010

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**Greeters**..... Anne & Dale Stearns  
**Scripture Reader**..... Ann Smit  
**Word for Children** ... Jim Mock  
**Fellowship Hour** ..... Donna Keyser  
**Snow Removal** ..... William Knicklebine (*through March 27*)

# 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 Mandy Strawn at 785-537-7006.*



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UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**

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

[uccmanhattan.org](http://uccmanhattan.org)

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MANHATTAN, KS 66502

**Return Service Requested**

## ***March 14, 2010***

**Chief Cook**.....*To be announced*  
**Volunteers**.....Ann Gleason, *To be announced*  
**Dessert**.....Wade Honey

## ***March 21, 2010***

**Chief Cook**.....Andy Barkley  
**Volunteers**.....Mary Ellen Barkley, Ann Gleason,  
Caren Knicklebine  
**Dessert**.....*To be announced*



## **Community News**

### **Shepherd's Crossing**

Shepherd's Crossings Open House March 23 from 4:00 – 6:00 P.M. at 621 Humboldt. Learn more about what Shepherd's Crossing does in our community. Board members and counselors available to answer questions you may have about our services. Sirloin Stockade is continuing our fundraiser on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of the month. Shepherd's Crossing receives 20% of sales for the entire day. This month's third Tuesday is March 16. The month of February we received \$154.63 bringing the total to \$3,978.45 since April of 2009!