



FIRST CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST NEWSLETTER

Volume 51 Number 5

March 14, 2007

Sunday School for all ages 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.	e-mail ucc@interkan.net

The Bouncers are Back!

You remember the “Bouncers” TV spot—the one that made United Church of Christ a familiar name in the news a couple of years ago? Well, it’s back in our area beginning March 19 and continuing through Easter Day. Through a cooperative effort of UCC congregations in eastern Kansas and western Missouri (including our congregation through the budget of the Church Vitality Team), the ad will be running on cable TV. In our area, it will be seen on HGTV, TLC, and TNT.

What can you do to help the campaign? Wear your comma lapel pin—the comma is an easy conversation starter. Be ready to talk about it. If you need ideas of what to say, check out the stillspeaking.com website. Even if you don’t think you need ideas, the website has great information. Be aware of new faces on Sunday mornings and go up and introduce yourself. Make it a point to invite folks to join you in Fellowship Hour and then introduce them to others. Be your friendly selves!

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Sharing and Caring

Prayers and Concerns

These items are not available on the website. Please call the church office for more information.

Helping

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

Thank You

- Members of the First Congregational Church, Thank you for the kindness and the use of the church during the reception for our Mom. We greatly appreciate all that you have done for our family. Sincerely, Ann Lee's Family
- On behalf of everyone at the Ecumenical Campus Ministry and Engineers Without Borders at KSU, I want to thank you for letting us come to First Congregational on February 25 and host a Potato Bar for our Mission Trip to Mexico. We raised \$325.50 for the students to use to help purchase construction supplies and help defray students' expenses. The students will go to Matamoros, Mexico, to help in construction projects and children's ministries at an orphanage and nearby colonia during Spring Break, March 17-24, 2007. We appreciate the ongoing support you give to this ministry! —*David Jones*, Campus Pastor
- We thank you for the donation of 38 pounds of food (*editor's note: through our "Fill the Breadbasket" Sunday*) and we appreciate your support. —*Flint Hills Breadbasket*

UCC Women of the Church

The spring planning meeting for the Women of the Church will be held at 1:30 P.M. on Wednesday, March 21, in Pioneer Hall. We will have discussion concerning the future of rummage sales, lunch bunch, giving to charities, future meeting times and other issues of interest. Dessert and coffee will be served. If you have items for the agenda or questions and comments please call me at 537-7006.

—*Martha Miller*

OGHS Offering this Sunday, March 18

Who is My Neighbor?

There is need. We can help.

Since 1949, One Great Hour of Sharing has helped North Americans share their blessings with our neighbors around the world. Together, our help supports many programs, including those that

- rebuild communities ravaged by natural disasters,
- create sustainable sources of food,
- provide micro-credit for women to start their own businesses,
- teach job skills to people maimed by land mines,
- offer children a chance to survive and to attend school.

One Great Hour of Sharing gives us an opportunity to be Good Samaritans to our neighbors having great need. Through our help, we show the kindness, compassion, and mercy to which Jesus calls us. By giving, we show and share God's love, offering a hand to the stranger in need, and making a world of difference in the lives of our neighbors.

Gifts to OGHS can be in the envelope supplied in the previous newsletter or with a clearly designated check placed in the offering on Sunday or mailed to the church.

There is need. We can help.

Parents of Sunday School Children

Please remember to help your child bring the Who is My Neighbor OGHS offering box to Sunday School or worship service on March 18.

White Memorial Camp Spring Work Day March 23-24, 2007

Call the K-O Conference Office
(316) 767-5165 to sign up.

Summer seems far away, but its not! Now is the time for you and your church to prepare for your involvement at White Memorial Camp. Cabins need to be reopened and cleaned, air conditioner covers removed, and there may be some electrical and plumbing projects. Both skilled and general labor tasks will be available.



First Congregational UCC of Manhattan has adopted the Green Cabin, so we will need to get it ready for the summer.

Most supplies will be provided. However, whatever tools, professional equipment or cleaning supplies you can bring will be greatly appreciated. To help us do the best job possible, please contact the conference office in advance to make reservations for yourself or your group, and alert us to any folks with specialized skills who are planning to attend.

North Central Association- Spring Meeting & Gathering

Saturday, March 31 at White Memorial Camp, Council Grove

Registration begins at 9:45

Come welcome our new camp director. Each Church is entitled to 5 voting delegates and all the guests who would like to attend. Please RSVP to Judy Ahrens by Monday, March 26 at 537-7006. Lunch is \$6 per person.



*Come & enjoy a beautiful spring day
at our camp!*

HOLY WEEK AND EASTER

Palm-Passion Sunday

April 1 at 10:45 A.M. Join the parade as we reenact the Palm Sunday parade with music offered by the children, choir, handbells, and organ. Then listen as we tell the passion story according the gospel of Luke.

Maundy Thursday

April 5 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 in the Taizé tradition. Child care for young children will be provided during the worship service.

Easter Breakfast

April 8, 9:30 A.M The Board of Christian Education invites you to begin Easter with a potluck breakfast at the church. Bring food to share—casseroles, sweet roles, quick breads, fruit, or whatever strikes your fancy. Drinks will be provided. Sunday School classes will not meet that morning, so come and enjoy great food and fellowship. And remember, guests are always welcome!

Festival Easter Worship

April 8, 10:45 A.M. Celebrate the resurrection in a festival Service of the Word. Join in music by the Congregational Brass Quartet, organ, choir, and congregation. Pastor Kent will preach.

Easter Egg Hunt

April 8, 12:00 P.M. Don't miss the egg-citement on the church lawn following worship. The egg hunt is prepared by the First

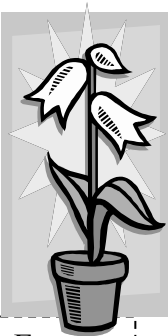


Congregational Youth and the Christian Education Board. There will be no regular Fellowship Hour on Easter Day.



EASTER LILIES

You have the opportunity to remember or honor family or friends by purchasing a lily for the Easter service on April 8. The lilies will be \$11. You may leave your check and completed form in the church office by April 2 so that your gift will be listed in the Sunday bulletin insert.



Lily Plants will be ordered to decorate the sanctuary for Easter. If you would like to order a lily, please complete this form, cut it out, and return it to the office along with your check for \$11.

In Memory of: _____

In Honor of: _____

In Appreciation of: _____

Given by: _____

Rainbow Table

Our next

Rainbow Table event will be April 14 at Paul and Dave's home. Letters will be mailed, and we'll need an RSVP by Monday, April 9.

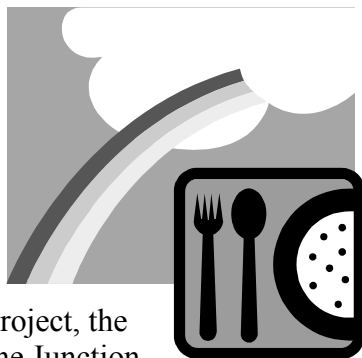
Rainbow Table will work with Flint Hills P-FLAG, GSA, QSA, Delta

Lambda Phi, the Regional HIV/AIDS Project, the Flint Hills Human Rights Project, and the Junction

City Teddy Bears to sponsor a "Pride Prom" on May 5. Atina Hanna has graciously agreed to be our Master of Ceremonies.

Allies and friends are invited; the attendance is limited to 150.

This activity is an invitation-only event. If you would like to receive an invitation, please contact Jo Foy at 537-7006.



Progressive Christian Book Club

The book club continues on March 16 and April 13, Room 202 at the K-State Student Union. We will be finishing Chapter 4 and discussing what book we would like to tackle starting in late summer. Please come with suggestions. We start our discussion at 12:10 and end by 12:50. This gives us time to get our food beforehand and for some of us to get back to our offices and obligations by 1:00 P.M.

— Jo Foy

Cinema & Soul:

- "Reel Theology" in films that explore issues of justice, otherness, and the "isms" of the world we live in.
- Showtime is 6:30 P.M. Tuesdays. Snacks provided. Come at 6:00 with a sack supper if you wish.

Tuesday, March 27: *Water*

A visually stunning film set in 1938 India, *Water* examines the plight of a group of widows forced into a life of poverty by ancient custom and religious belief. It tells the story of 8-year-old Chuyia who is sent by her family to a widows house after her much older husband dies. There she struggles to understand this community of women who are themselves beginning to question their place. This is the time when Gandhi, and the political and social winds of change are felt even in the widows house.

MPAA: Rated PG-13 for mature thematic material involving sexual situations, and for brief drug use. 2005 Hindi with English subtitles. 114 minutes.

Adult Forum Class Continues

Marcus Borg's *The Heart of Christianity*

On March 18 Adult Forum begins a class led by Craig Weston which will take up Marcus Borg's recent book *The Heart of Christianity*. Since its publication, this book has sparked a renewed sense of a progressive, inclusive, and Jesus-centered faith in folks from all walks of life. If you would like to order a book, contact the church office. Paperback copies are available in the church office at a cost of \$12.00 each.

Christian Education for Kids

Two themes run through the children's Sunday activities: our purpose as Christians, and God's unconditional love. The children are learning to consider all those in need as part of the family of God, and that even the youngest and smallest can contribute in some small way to a better world. Through the story of Mary Magdalene, we are learning that each of us is acceptable to God as we are and as we try to grow into a more fruitful life. Come join the fun on Sunday mornings as we explore these ideas with games, puppets, gummy bears, and crafts.

We welcome volunteers to help us continue the program this spring. April's theme is "Easter Around the World." This is an especially exciting unit, and we still need teachers. If you have the time and energy, we need you. —*Cheryl Poister*, CE Director

Youth Corner

Eight youth attended the 3rd Annual Progressive Dinner on February 17. It was a great evening with the Hanna's, Smit's, and Lewis' serving as hosts. Thank you!

Seven youth met at the Manhattan Arts Center to make soup bowls for the Empty Bowls project. What a great time! Everyone got a chance to use the pottery wheel, and the finished bowls looked pretty good.

Kudos:

Congratulations to Tyler Cochran and Chloe Weston for their winning entries at the regional History Day contest, which was held at Kansas State on March 10!

— *Tracey Weston*, Youth Ministry Coordinator

Worship & Church Volunteers

March 18, 2007

Sanctuary Flowers... Kerri Keller
Greeters Brent Maner
Scripture Reader Mary Ray
Acolyte
Word for Children .. Cheryl Poister
Fellowship Hour Bonnie Lynn Sherow
Snow Removal Brent Maner (*through March 24*)

March 25, 2007

Sanctuary Flowers... Martha Miller
Greeters Burke & Margery Bayer; Jerry Hanna
Scripture Reader Tyler Cochran
Acolyte
Word for Children .. Cheryl Poister
Fellowship Hour Sheila Stevens
Snow Removal Jim Fuller (*through March 31*)

April 1, 2007

Sanctuary Flowers... Easter Lilies
Greeters Marsha Tannehill; Christy Crenshaw
Scripture Reader Eldon Epp
Acolyte
Word for Children .. Cheryl Poister
Fellowship Hour Judy Ahrens

Community News

Community Lenten Services Wednesdays at Noon, through March 28 at First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) located downtown on Courthouse Plaza. A simple lunch follows at 12:30 P.M.

Sponsored by the Manhattan Ministers Association

Head Start Opportunity Preschool, serving the Manhattan-Ogden and Riley County School Districts, is accepting applications for the 2007-2008 school year. Head Start is a free, federally funded early childhood program that serves families with low income. To apply, a child must be 3 years old by August 31, 2007, but not yet kindergarten age eligible. For more information, call 587-2045 or stop by Head Start at 1700 Leavenworth.

Spring Break at Manhattan Arts Center

March 19-23 9:00 A.M. – 5:00 P.M. Grades K-6

It's an exciting way to spend your spring break! Kids will rotate through classes in painting, cartooning, theater, clay, sculpture, papier-mâché, and more! There will also be exciting visits from community members. We start each day with a special visit, and then follow the theme with our art projects throughout the day.



Our visitor schedule for spring break:

Monday: Sunset Zoo

Tuesday: Riley County Police Dept.

Wednesday: The Commanding General's Mounted Color Guard

Thursday: Manhattan Public Library

Friday: It's a SURPRISE!

Morning Sessions 9:00 -1:00

Afternoon Sessions 1:00-5:00

Cost \$15 per session, \$30 a day

Call the Manhattan Arts Center now at 537-4420.