



**FIRST CONGREGATIONAL  
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST  
NEWSLETTER**

Volume 51 Number 6

March 28, 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](mailto:ucc@interkan.net)

**Something New**

As Holy Week and Easter approach, I always expect something new. Not just the ordinary miracle of spring, but something surprising and unexpected. At some point, as I enter the paschal mystery in and with the community of faith, as we move through our ancient and contemporary participation in these holiest of days, I find myself surprised by the passion, the pathos, and the joy. I hope you will join me in this journey in coming week.

This year, I am keenly aware that something new looms beyond Easter Day for us. "So when are you leaving?" is the most frequently asked question these days. Except for the context, it could be a rather unsettling question! The context is my sabbatical leave. So what happens while you're gone? That's the second most frequently asked question. To answer these question and many others, a Sabbatical FAQ brochure is enclosed in this newsletter.

As we await new things...

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**HOLY WEEK AND EASTER**

**Palm-Passion Sunday**

**April 1 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 listen as we tell the passion story according the gospel of Luke and celebrate Holy Communion. *Let's fill the Breadbasket!*

**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 at 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 rolls, 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 at 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 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.



## Sharing and Caring

### *Prayers and Concerns*

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

### *Thank You*

- From the Board of Mission and Outreach: Thank you for your generous contributions to the One Great Hour of Sharing special appeal. Our congregation's gifts to OGHS have totaled \$2,165.60 this year. If you still plan to make a gift, please do so within the next two weeks. Thank you!

### *Helping*

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

### *Announcement*

- Tuesday, April 3, 7:30 P.M. in All Faiths Chapel. Charlotte Sylvester (occasional First Congregational substitute organist) will present her Senior composition recital.

### **UCC Plant Sale Moved to Fall**

The annual Plant and Bake Sale has been moved to the fall, probably in late September. The group that works on the sale found that we always wound up competing with other events when the sale was scheduled in May, including other plant sales. So we decided that this year we would try a fall plant sale, with emphasis on perennials and shrubs that can be planted in the fall.

If you have plants or garden items that really should be sold in the spring, let me know, and we can arrange to let the church family know and to have any proceeds go toward the fall sale. We anticipate that sale proceeds will again be split between the Second Helping and Shepherd's Crossing. —*Ann Smit* (537-7006)

### **North Central Association Spring Meeting** **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 at 537-7006. Lunch is \$6 per person.



## Matching Grant Challenge for Camp White

The Rev. John Austin and members of Peace United Church of Christ in Alma, Kansas, announce a matching grant fund for the benefit of improvements at Camp White!

Peace Church made a decision in their 2005 congregational meeting to utilize the "Cup of Love" funds (that previously supported the Schmitz Friedens Haus group home) for ministries that would benefit youth in our conference. The house on the Camp White property is in need of considerable work. We are thrilled that the house will be the home of our new camp director, the first ordained minister since Tom Redman to be the director of our camp. The first \$10,000 that can be raised from individuals, congregations, or any organizations in our churches for the refurbishing of this home will be matched, dollar for dollar, from the "Cup of Love" funds.

*First Congregational, Manhattan will gladly receive and pass on your gifts to this cause. Please make checks out to the church and mark your gift clearly for "Camp White/Cup of Love"*

## 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, April 10: *Jesus Camp*

This relatively unfiltered documentary follows a group of young children to Pastor Becky Fischer's "Kids on Fire Summer Camp," where kids are schooled in how to take back America for Christ. It is a first-ever look into an intense training ground that recruits born-again Christian children to become an active part of America's political future.

*MPAA: Rated PG-13 for some discussions of mature subject matter. 2006. 87 minutes.*

## 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 must leave your check and completed form in the church office by April 2 for your gift to be listed in the Sunday worship bulletin insert.**



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

The next Rainbow Table event will be 6:00 P.M. April 14 at the home of Paul Stagner and Dave Ludwig, 2015 Meadowmere Court. Reminder letters will be mailed, and we will ask for an RSVP by Monday, April 9.

Rainbow Table is working 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 call Jo Foy at 537-7006.





## Progressive Christian Book Club

The book club meets on 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*

## UCC Women of the Church

There will be **NO RUMMAGE SALE THIS SPRING**. Please **do not bring rummage to the church basement**. Future rummage sales will be determined if and when we find a person willing to be the sale coordinator. If you are interested in considering the position of coordinator, there is a notebook that outlines past procedures which can serve as a guide. The rummage sale has been a good mission for our church. It has helped people in need and helped people in the church clean their closets. If you have the time and interest, please contact Martha Miller at 537-7006.

## Adult Forum Class Continues

### Marcus Borg's *The Heart of Christianity*

On March 18 Adult Forum began a class led by Craig Weston which takes 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 purchase a book, paperback copies are available in the church office at a cost of \$12.00 each.

## Christian Education for Kids

Don't forget to join us for the Easter Breakfast on Easter morning, April 8. The breakfast is a potluck, and all are welcome. Guests are encouraged to join as young and old enjoy the great food and fellowship. Don't miss it! Because breakfast will be at 9:30 A.M., there will be no Sunday school on Easter morning.

Easter is the most important of holidays—reminding each of us that Christ's love is our own. As Holy Week approaches, we can consider our lives as Christians and the deeper significance of the Resurrection. The children will be exploring the traditions of Easter around the world as a way to learn more about the meaning of this special season. Teachers are still needed for May: so if you have the time, please volunteer. —*Cheryl Poister*, CE Director

## Youth Corner



### Lenexa Lock-in

Friday, May 11 at 9:30 P.M., there will be a state wide UCC Youth lock-in at a play park in Lenexa, Kansas. The event ends at 7:30 A.M. on Saturday. All interested youth in junior high and high school are invited to attend. There will be a \$20 charge per person. Please let Tracey Weston know by Sunday, April 8 if you will be attending so that transportation can be arranged.

*Tracey Weston*,  
Youth Ministry Coordinator

# 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 Marian Fuller 537-7006.*



## April 1, 2007

**Chief Cook** ..... Bill Hargrove  
**Volunteers** ..... Kathy Bleam, Paula Ford  
Ann Gleason, Paul Hargrove  
**Dessert** ..... Kay Sinnett

## April 8, 2007

**Chief Cook** ..... Ann Smit  
**Volunteers** ..... Smit Family, Christine Davis,  
Ann Gleason, Graduate Student Association  
**Dessert** ..... Ann Smit

## April 15, 2007

**Chief Cook** ..... Andrew Barkley  
**Volunteers** ..... Graduate Student Association, Ann Gleason  
**Dessert** ..... Marian Fuller

## April 22, 2007

**Chief Cook** ..... Brent Maner  
**Volunteers** ..... ESA Sorority  
**Dessert** ..... Church

## April 29, 2007

**Chief Cook** ..... Bill Hargrove  
**Volunteers** ..... Delta Sigma Theta Sorority,  
Paula Ford, Paul Hargrove  
**Dessert** ..... Barbara Withee

# Worship & Church Volunteers

## April 1, 2007

**Sanctuary Flowers**.. Palms  
**Greeters** ..... Marsha Tannehill; Christy Crenshaw  
**Scripture Reader** ..... Eldon Epp  
**Acolyte** .....  
**Fellowship Hour** ..... Judy Ahrens  
**Lawn Mowing** ..... Dave Manning (*through April 7*)

## April 8, 2007

**Sanctuary Flowers**... Easter Lilies  
**Greeters** ..... *Volunteers Needed*  
**Scripture Reader** ..... Sue Zschoche  
**Acolyte** .....  
**Word for Children** ..  
**Fellowship Hour** ..... Martha Miller  
**Lawn Mowing** ..... *Volunteer Needed (through March 31)*

## April 15, 2007

**Sanctuary Flowers**... Mary Lee Cochran  
**Greeters** ..... *Volunteers Needed*  
**Scripture Reader** ..... Brent Maner  
**Acolyte** .....  
**Word for Children** ..  
**Fellowship Hour** ..... Jerry & Sharyl Reynard; Kristin Hymer  
**Lawn Mowing** ..... *Volunteer Needed (through March 31)*

## Community News

**Solo Handbell Concert** Kathie Fink will present “Legacy,” a solo handbell concert at 7:30 P.M. on Friday, March 30, 2007 at First United Methodist Church, 612 Poyntz Avenue, Manhattan. She will be accompanied on the piano by her sister-in-law Sharon Fink. An offering will be taken. For more information about her tour go to [www.kathiefink.com](http://www.kathiefink.com).

**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.

**Tuesday,  
April 3 is  
Election Day**

**Don't forget  
to vote!**

