



FIRST CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST NEWSLETTER

Volume 51 Number 7

April 18, 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

Something New, Again

Greetings to the Church of Jesus Christ, our Risen Lord! We are the blessed, who stand in these post-Easter days, bearing witness in our hearts and our fellowship of Jesus' resurrected life.

It is my privilege to fill in as your interim for the next 3 months, during Kent's Sabbatical. It was likewise my opportunity to fill in during the time in 1999-2000 when we were between pastors. You were good to me then, and I ask for your continued grace, forbearance, and prayers.

On Martin Luther King Day we often hear the expression that this day is not 'time off' but 'time on'. Kent expressed a similar thought in the previous newsletter, which I would echo. This interim is an opportunity for us all to continue to grow in faith and in service. Kent won't be exactly the same when he returns; neither should we! Who knows how the Spirit may lead us, as we're open to God's continuing transformation.

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So let us be engaged in feeding the hungry- physically and spiritually- clothing and visiting those in need. And let us be Christ's ministering body to each other in this Easter season. Christ is Risen! Alleluia!

Rev. Eldon Epp

Sharing and Caring

Prayers and Concerns

These items are not viewable on this website. Please call the church office for further information.

Congratulations

- To Craig Weston who received a \$5000 fellowship from the Kansas Arts Commission, in honor of his music composition.

Thank You

- To all who helped with the Maundy Thursday service on April 5. Especially, **Jeff Keller** and **Gretchen Lewis**, who provided soup, and **Judy Davis**, who supplied the bread.
- Thank You for the Palm Sunday Readers! A BIG “thank you” to **Jim Hodgson, Tyler Cochran, Chris Hogan, Gretchen Lewis, Tracy Weston, Mary Ray, Dave Smit** and **Pastor Kent** for participating in the Passion reading.
- Thank You for the help on Easter Sunday morning after services. Thanks to **Eldon Epp, Jim Fuller, Don Cannon, Jim Flak, Chris Hogan** and others who helped re-arrange the tables in Pioneer Hall from the Easter breakfast to be prepared for 2nd Helping (Sunday evening) and the AAUW dinner (Monday evening). We appreciate the “manly” assistance.

Jo Foy

Helping

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

Missing

- Pastor Kent’s 11X15” clear glass Anchor-Hawking baking dish went missing after the Easter Potluck.

Announcement

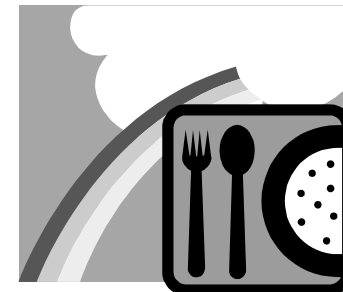
- The 2007 Directory is now available. Please pick up your copy from the church lobby. Call the office if there are any changes that need to be made about your information.
- If you would like one of the left over Easter Lilies, please pick one up by Sunday. After Sunday, all remaining will be discarded.

- After working with everyone for over a year, I am sorry to say that I will be leaving my position at First Congregational on May 4. The office hours will be fluctuating a bit in this time of transition, so please be patient. Beginning April 23, the Administrative Office will be open from **9:00- 12:00 Monday through Friday**. Many people have made my time here a very rewarding experience. I would like to personally thank Virginia Bigbee and Evelyn Keller for all of their hard work on the newsletter mailings.

Best Wishes to All,
Alisha Rall, Administrative Assistant

Rainbow Table

Rainbow Table is a way for people who identify as LGBTQI to gather together as friends and share food, fun, news and a portion of their lives. It grew out of the Festive Feasters activity that the church does every spring with families who sign up to rotate a potluck at their home on a monthly basis. This is a way to get to know other members of our church better by spending time with each other.



This month our dinner was hosted by Paul Stagner and David Ludwig. We enjoyed a wonderful meal of tacos and posolé, with a host of side dishes brought by guests. A wonderful pre-dinner conversation centered on the many plans of graduation, graduate schools, and plans for travel during the summer. The post-dinner discussion was about our service project, the Flint Hills Pride Prom and “invitations” were purchased.

Next month our activity will be the Pride Prom itself, on May 5th. Plans are being made for a picnic in June and we hope that other Festive Feaster groups will join us. Other members of the church who are not in festive feasters are invited to join us. More details will be forthcoming.

Mary Ray

Flint Hills Pride PROM

The plans for the Pride Prom are underway and we are very excited about having our very first Prom for the LGBTQI community and

our friends and allies. The high school students have been put in charge of the theme and decorations. Their decision for a theme of "Masquerade" was inspired and their colors for the decorations are crimson, crème and black. It sounds very striking and sophisticated.

Once again we invite all members of our church to participate as you ARE our allies and friends. The Pride Prom will be held on Saturday, May 5, 2007 from 8:00 pm to 12:00 pm at the K-State Union Station located on the ground floor at the back of the Student Union.

Admission is \$5 per person and must be paid in advance, no later than May 3rd. NO PAYMENT AT THE DOOR. Checks are made payable to PFLAG (Parents, Friends and Family of Lesbians and Gays). No one will be admitted who is not on our list and the only way to get on the list is through payment.

Jo Foy will be gathering the money and distributing the invitations, which is your ticket, for Rainbow Table and our church. Please contact her for more information. 537-7006. Hope to see you there kicking up your heels and having a jolly good time.



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.

Youth Corner

Sunday, April 22, Helping Fish Habitat: 9:00-12:00 P.M. Tuttle Creek Reservoir. The youth will volunteer and help set up a man-made fish habitat in the reservoir. Lunch will be provided afterward.

Sunday, April 29, Youth and Family Potluck: 7:00 P.M. Please bring a dish to share along with any family members you wish! Potluck will be held at the Church. Upcoming seventh graders and their families will also be invited to this potluck.

Friday, May 11, Youth Lock-In:

Lenexa at Emerald/ Bump City Indoor Play Park. There are in-ground trampolines, rock climbing walls, slides, rope swings, foam pits, zip-line, mazes and more. Cost is \$20, due at the lock-in. Each person needs to bring food items to share. RSVP ASAP to Tracey.



Tracey Weston,
Youth Ministry Coordinator

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

UCC Women of the Church

Lunch Bunch May 2 The UCC Women of the Church invite you to Lunch Bunch on Wednesday, May 2. They will be meeting at 11:30 A.M. at Early Edition. Spouses, friends, and the single men of the church are invited to lunch if their schedules allow.



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 22, 2007

Chief Cook Brent Maner
Volunteers ESA Sorority
Dessert Barbara Withee

April 29, 2007

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

SECOND HELPING HEADS UP!



Summer is coming and with that we lose the assistance of some of our student groups as helpers at Second Helping. June, July and August are months when we as a congregation are urged to step up and take a turn as being assistants for our cooks – so if you get a call, please say “YES!” to taking a Sunday at Second

Helping. Some might like to form a team using friends from outside our congregation, or doing it as a family unit, and that would be great too! Just let Marian Fuller know the Sunday you'd like to take. 537-7006

Worship & Church Volunteers

April 22, 2007

Sanctuary Flowers... Sharyl Reynard
Greeters Mike & Martha Miller; Jim & Marian Fuller
Scripture Reader Judy Davis
Word for Children .. Cheryl Poister
Fellowship Hour Brent Maner
Lawn Mowing Volunteer Needed (*through April 28*)

April 29, 2007

Sanctuary Flowers... Marian Fuller
Greeters Virginia Bigbee
Scripture Reader Gretchen Lewis
Word for Children .. Cheryl Poister
Fellowship Hour Jerry & Atina Hanna
Lawn Mowing Jim Hodgson (*through May 5*)

May 6, 2007

Sanctuary Flowers... Susan Scott
Greeters Brent Maner
Scripture Reader Sue Zschoche
Word for Children .. Cheryl Poister
Fellowship Hour Jim & Marian Fuller
Lawn Mowing Brad Logan (*through May 12*)

Community News

“Into the Woods”

Manhattan Arts Center: April 27-29 & May 3-6

Performances: Thursday 7:30 P.M., Fri & Sat 8:00 P.M., and Sunday 2:00 P.M.

Music and lyrics: Steven Sondheim

Starring: Allison Karnowski, Linda Uthoff and other talented local actors

First Lady’s Annual Send-Off The members of Mount Zion Family Worship Center Church of God in Christ would be honored if your church joined us for our Second Annual Send-Off. The service will be Sunday, April 29 at 3:30 P.M. The guest speaker will be Missionary Alma Hampton, Women’s Fellowship Ministries, from Evangelistic Center Church, Kansas City, Kansas.

“Breaking Through” Free 8-Week Session

First Presbyterian Church, 801 Leavenworth

Beginning May 15 - Every Tuesday from 6:00-7:30 P.M.

Equipping and empowering African-American women to rise above the factors that place them at high risk for HIV and AIDS. For more information contact S’ambrosia Curtis at the Regional AIDS Project office (785) 587-1999 or by e-mail at rapwpc@yahoo.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.

Living with Grief: Before and After the Death

May 8, 1:30-4:30, 14th Annual Teleconference

Meadowlark Hills Retirement Community Banquet Room

The teleconference will explore the most current theoretical perspectives on loss and grief as experienced by persons throughout a life-limiting illness and by their survivors. A particular focus will be on areas where understandings of grief have been challenged. The program will be useful to a wide range of professionals who provide bereavement counseling or work with the bereaved and to those who offer education on loss, grief, dying and death.

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