



FIRST CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST NEWSLETTER

Volume 52 Number 11

August 15, 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

On the Journey

The metaphor of journey for the Christian vocation is perhaps overused at times, but few are more apt. If our calling to follow in the way of Jesus is anything, it is a calling that never seems to be static. Christ calls us into new places, new understandings, and new challenges—and calls us as pilgrims, not just tourists.

As I said in my sermon last week, that can sometimes make the gospel is an endless “to do” list, especially when we forget that we are part of something a lot bigger than just us. We are not the only ones working at the list!

But how does one stay on a journey that lasts beyond a lifetime without burning out? There are probably as many answers as there are Christians on the journey. Different strokes for different folks. However, one common theme for most of us is that we do not do it alone. We are sustained by a great cloud of witnesses who have gone this way before us, who inspire us by their lives lived in faith. And we are sustained by those who journey with us now. *[continued on page 2]*

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I have been telling folks that as I returned from sabbatical, it was my hope to get back in the groove without getting back into the ruts. Ruts are bigger than grooves, so that’s not always easy. Being on the journey in a town heavily influenced by the academic calendar, the middle of August always feels a bit like a new year, a return from sabbatical, or at least a fresh start.

So now is as good a time as any to take aim for the groove on your journey—especially if you’ve been feeling like you’re in a rut. A key way for all of us to do that is to commit to being present in worship—because we are sustained by one another. We have two opportunities for that every week at First Congregational UCC. Sundays at 10:45 A.M. and Thursdays at 7:00 P.M. If you are traveling, look up some fellow travelers wherever you are.

Consider nourishing yourself on the journey through education and fellowship. Church School classes begin August 19, and you are never too old to learn. The adult forum will begin the fall with a focus on the “**United Church of Christ, 50 Years Bold!**” Hear from delegates and visitors about this summer’s birthday bash in Hartford, Connecticut, and experience some of the keynote speakers and events through DVD and discussion.

Want to dig deeper? Consider taking a class through the **Lay Ministry Education** program of the Kansas-Oklahoma Conference of the UCC. You can learn more about this program at the K-O conference website www.kocucc.com Weekend classes are taught four times each year and offer about 10 hours of instruction in addition to outside reading and assignments (for those seeking credit—assignments are optional if you just want to audit). The next class is “Spiritual Practices” which will take place September 7 & 8 at White Memorial Camp.

Pilgrims on a journey (as opposed to tourists) also know that the journey means work. It is an opportunity to serve as well as sightsee. Volunteer for Second Helping or in worship. Try a month of teaching Sunday School. Check out the opportunities to volunteer some time on the Tower Chime project. Set the alarm clock and sing in the choir. Find your groove.

Grace & Peace, 

Sharing and Caring

Prayers and Concerns

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

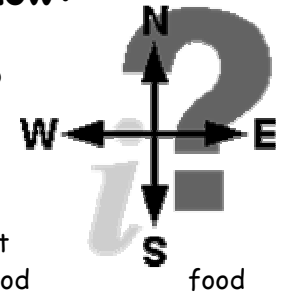
Kudos

- To First Congregational members who have been helping to refurbish the home at White Memorial Camp for our new K-O camp director Ira Williams. Workers of late have included Mike & Martha Miller, Jim & Judy Ahrens, and Virginia Bigbee. (If we missed any others, we apologize.)
- To **David Vogel** who was part of a Habitat for Humanity delegation that just returned after completing the foundations for five houses in India.

Inquiring Minds Want to Know:

- What is the story of this church?
- How do I become a member of this church?
- What does it mean to be a member?
What if I'm, not sure?
- Does "UCC" rhyme with "duck"?

For answers to these and other questions that inquiring minds want to know (and for some good and fellowship) join us for:



Inquirer's Lunches

Sundays September 9 & 16, Noon to 1:30 P.M.

Lunch will be provided

Child care is available on request*

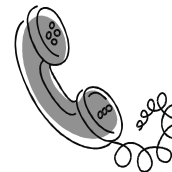
*Call 537-7006 by Thursday and let us know how many and ages.

These lunches are for both those who would like to become members of First Congregational UCC and those who just want to learn more about the history and ministries of this congregation.

You will have the opportunity to meet new and long-time members. We'll all share our own stories and hopes, take a tour of this historic building's nooks and crannies, and share food and fellowship.

Questions? Talk to the pastor or call the church office 537-7006.

CARE CLUSTERS ARE FORMING!



If you don't hear from a Care Cluster leader, please call the church office, 537-7006, so we can get that corrected.

Many, many thanks again to our Care Cluster leaders: Judy Ahrens, Kathy Bleam, Marian

Fuller, Atina Hanna, Jean Hill, Jan Lange, Lauren Ritterbush, Joy Schell, Judy Willingham, and Barbara Withee.



First Congregational UCC's Feast & Festival

Sunday, August 26 at 5:00 P.M.

- Join us for a fun evening of food, games and fellowship.
- At 5:00 P.M. enjoy a catered meal—nothing to fix or bring!
- Tickets are on sale now. Youth and adults are \$6 each, children ages 5-12 are \$4 each, and children under 5 are free.
- Don't miss the fun as we welcome everyone back to school and church.

Calling All Choir Members:

(and all would-be Choir members!)



The choir will resume rehearsals on Sunday, August 26, at 8:30 A.M. and we are eager to welcome new members. We will sing our first anthem of the season on that day. I hope you've all enjoyed your rest and are ready to sing again. Many thanks to those of you who shared your musical talents this summer.

I hope you're all planning on attending the Feast and Festival on August 26. Because we're already having one church party that weekend, I decided we could wait for our annual Choir Potluck until late September or early October. Stay tuned!

I hope to see you all on the 26th —

Love,
Gretchen

Sunday School Kick-Off August 19

Sunday School classes for all ages—children, youth, and adults—will kick off a new year of learning and growth on Sunday August 19, at 9:30 A.M. Invite a friend!



Adult Class “The UCC—50 Years Bold!”

The United Church of Christ turned 50 this summer, and boy did we have a party! Our fall class lineup provides the opportunity to experience some of the party and learn some of our history.

August 19 at 9:30 A.M. The UCC @ 50

Experience a UCC timeline (the clothes and hair in the 70's are worth the price of admission!) and hear voices from the UCC today.

August 25 at 9:30 A.M. A Synod High

General Synod delegate Atina Hanna, and visitors Jerry Hanna and Kent Cormack lead a discussion of events and actions from the 26th General Synod held in Hartford this past June.

Youth Corner Grades 7-12

I hope everyone had a great summer! We will start up youth group this Sunday, August 19, meeting at 7:00 P.M. in the youth room. Come prepared to talk about your summer activities—bring a few dollars for pizza and be ready to discuss plans for the upcoming year. Let's make this the best year ever!

UCC Women of the Church



Lunch Bunch September 5

The UCC Women of the Church invite you to Lunch Bunch on Wednesday, September 5, at Hillside Café. Everyone is invited to join in the fun.

Tower Chime Update

The Chimes: The ten chimes are ready and waiting to ring, unless somebody wants to strip the blotches of grey paint that are on some of them.



The ten tower chimes brought back from the tower of the First Presbyterian Church Tulsa, OK

The Strikers: Sean Weston & Charlie Barkley did most of the disassembly work on the ten strikers; they forged through the 87 year accumulation of grease, dirt and glop without hesitation. Many of the hundreds of parts have been degreased and cleaned in the ultra-sonic cleaner. Martha Miller had

the honor of putting the first portions of the strikers back together: the ten pairs of Positive and Negative terminal strips. There is still much work to be done. One particular concern is the rewinding of the ten pairs of small “bobbin” coils for the strikers; three volunteers have tried their hand at this task on the coil winding machine and graciously asked for other work. If you thrive on close-up detail work, please check with me about a future in coil winding. This involves no heavy or strenuous work.

The Cast Iron Cradles: Each of the cradles that hold the strikers and the chimes were bolted to the wooden rack with 4” long lag bolts. These bolts are so rusty that most of them simply lifted out of the 6” x 8” beams when we dismantled the system in Tulsa. Now the problem is getting the remains of the bolts out of the cast iron cradles; they are rusted solid. Jim Flak & I spent most of an afternoon at it and managed to get four bolts out. Assistance and/or financial backing for a trip to a machine shop are needed.

The Chime Rack: The Tulsa Team was too exhausted, and the day was too far gone for us to get the entire chime rack removed on July 13. The church has requested that we complete the removal, so we need a small crew to return to Tulsa Friday evening, August 24, and get the rest of the rack out on Saturday, August 25. Saints Anonymous have offered to pay for the fuel and motel room for that trip. No replacement or reconstruction work has been done on the rack yet.



The Chime Loft: The abandoned chimney near the west wall of the loft in our tower was taken down on July 21 by Brad Logan, Jeff Keller, Mike Miller, Bill Pallet, and Craig & Sean Weston. To everybody’s surprise, there is no open flue below the level of the loft floor (we had hoped that the wiring for the chimes could be routed through the chimney flue). The bricks and the very dirty fiberglass insulation that had been stored in the loft for many years were removed on August 4 by Brad & Eli Logan & Lauren Ritterbush, and Mike & Martha Miller. The loft floor still needs to be reinforced, new rubber roofing needs to be installed, and then the metal that covers the louvers can be replaced with screening.

In addition to volunteer help on the strikers, rack, and loft, the following financial needs are looming: \$100-\$150 for replating striker parts, \$100-\$150 for sandblasting the striker parts that are to be repainted, \$50 for primer and paint for the sandblasted striker parts, and \$40 for degreasing solutions.

With gratitude,
Bill Pugh

Rainbow Camp

Several gathered for a day at White Memorial Camp. Rev. Ira Williams spent almost all day with us brainstorming ideas, showing us the camp amenities and features, and driving the pontoon boat for a tour of the lake.



From left to right
Joey Lightner, Mary, Jo, Ira, Paul
(not pictured Jan Lange, photographer)

Rev. Ira will take the lead on organizing with other UCC pastors and congregations in our region a UCC Rainbow Family Camp next summer. Our local committee, sponsored by Flint Hills

PFLAG, will move on to a facilitation/guiding role in developing a GLBT youth leadership camp next summer which will lead to a conference later in the year.



We had a great day of planning and playing. Oh, and did I forget to mention eating? Mary and Jo provided breakfast from the Farmers' Market in Manhattan; Jo cooked chicken and brats on the grill; Jan provided salad, baked beans, muffins and chocolate chip brownies (Yum!). Gretchen arrived just in time with hot dog buns and plates. The WMC kitchen provided lunch, all the ice we wanted, as well as lemonade, tea and water.



Worship & Church Volunteers

August 19, 2007

- Sanctuary Flowers**... Susan Scott
- Greeters** Jan Lange and Sandy O'Grady
- Scripture Reader** Gretchen Lewis
- Word for Children** ..
- Fellowship Hour** Jim & Marian Fuller
- Lawn Mowing** Jerry Reynard (*August 19-August 25*)

August 26, 2007

- Sanctuary Flowers**... Bonnie Lynn-Sherow
- Greeters** Paula Pierce, Shai Buelow
Simone Buelow, and Jan Lange
- Scripture Reader** Joy Foy
- Word for Children** ..
- Fellowship Hour** Judy Davis & Sue Zschoche
- Lawn Mowing** Brad Logan (*August 26-Septembert 1*)

The Second Helping

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 Sandy O'Grady 537-7006.



August 19, 2007

- Chief Cook** Sandy O'Grady
- Volunteers** Brandon Stewart, Samantha McGraw,
Christie Crenshaw, Ryan Green
- Dessert** Sandy O'Grady

August 26, 2007

Second Helping guests are invited to join the congregation in the Annual Feast & Festival Dinner and Games!

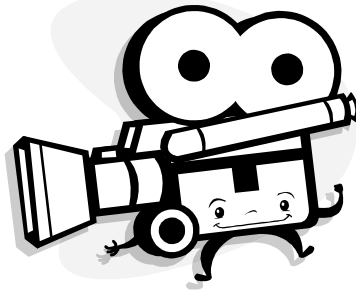
Community News

Movies on the Grass

----movies with a conscience

Coffman Commons in front of Hale Library, Sundays at 8:00 P.M.

All events are free and open to the public. Pre-feature events include raffles, prizes, music, and much more. *Viewer discretion is advised—not all films are suitable for children.*



8/19 Who Killed the Electric Car?

Pre-feature Festivities at 7:00 P.M.
Electric Car Show

8/26 Favela Rising

Pre-feature Festivities at 6:00 P.M.
Afroreggae Live in Concert at Bosco Student Plaza

9/09 Maxed Out

Pre-feature Festivities at 7:00 P.M.

9/16 Yesterday

Pre-feature Festivities at 7:00 P.M.

www.k-state.edu/moviesonthegrass

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

700 Poyntz Avenue
Manhattan, KS 66502

(785) 537-7006

ucc@interkan.net



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