



# FIRST CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST NEWSLETTER

Volume 52 Number 12

August 29, 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 <a href="mailto:ucc@interkan.net">ucc@interkan.net</a>

## The UCC at 50

The 50<sup>th</sup> birthday celebration for the United Church of Christ started in the fall of 2006—remember the K-O Conference annual meeting here in Manhattan when we welcomed 2 past presidents of the UCC and current president John Thomas preached from our pulpit? The year-long party crescendoed to the celebration in Hartford, Connecticut, in June with over 9,000 people present. Three folks from our congregation were there, and we can all tell you, it was a meeting unique in the history of the United Church of Christ. It was certainly the biggest.

This fall we have the opportunity to experience some of the “highs” from the General Synod in Hartford during our Sunday morning adult class forums. We have already begun, but the best is yet to come. Many of the presentations at General Synod were recorded, and through the technology of the DVD, you can hear the likes of Bill Moyers, Lynn Redgrave, Marian Wright Edelman, John Hockenberry, and more, all in comfortable and convenient Pioneer Hall, Sundays at 9:30 A.M. *[schedule on page 2]*

### ➔ ➔ ➔ ➔ Inside this Newsletter ➔ ➔ ➔ ➔

Sharing & Caring .....	3	Christian Education.....	2, 8
Events & Activities .....	4-5	Volunteer Schedules .....	9
News Stories .....	6-7	Community News .....	11

## The UCC at 50—General Synod Highs

**September 2 “What Are You Doing Here UCC?”** A timely and challenging sermon by UCC General Minister and President John Thomas on the story of Elijah from 1 Kings.

**September 9 Bill Moyers “Prologue”**

**September 16 Bill Moyers “Argument & Altar Call”** We will spend 2 weeks hearing and discussing award-winning journalist Moyers’ powerful keynote address. Provocative, prophetic, & profound—he had everybody talking.

**September 23 Marian Wright Edelman “Resetting America’s Moral Compass for Our Children”** You know her from the Children’s Defense Fund. Hear her compelling message about the future of our children and our nation.

**September 30 Renita Weems “God of Our Weary Years”** Author of widely acclaimed books on Women’s spirituality and wholeness, Weems draws on her life in the church and the prophet Jeremiah to explore the Joshua generation and the Moses generation.

**October 7 Renita Weems part 2**

**October 14 Lynn Redgrave “My Journey through Cancerland”** Famed actress and UCC member Redgrave will move and inspire you with her story of cancer, community, fear, and hope. Hear Psalm 23 like you’ve never heard it before!

**October 21 Susan Brooks Thistlethwaite “Getting Ahead of the Curve”** Peace activist and president of Chicago Theological Seminary, Thistlethwaite explores the necessity of moving from the biblical and theological defensive position to one in which we articulate our message in the public square with clarity.

**October 28 John Hockenberry “What’s It All About? Thoughts on Sideshows and Main Events”** Award-winning Dateline NBC journalist Hockenberry will provoke you and have you laughing at the same time. A Unitarian who worships at Trinity Episcopal Church on Wall Street, he has some interesting things to say to the UCC.

I hope to see you Sunday. Grace & Peace,

## Sharing and Caring

### *Prayers and Concerns*

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

### *Thank You*

- To **Jean Hill** for coordinating the luncheon for the family of Gene Gishwiller, and to all who prepared food and helped to serve. Thank you for your ministry of hospitality.
- To all who walked in the **Relay for Life** August 24 & 25 and to all who continue their fight against cancer.

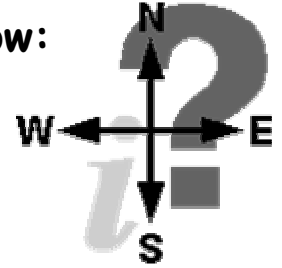
### *Directory Changes*

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

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

### 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 food 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 the preceding Thursday to let us know how many children and their 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.

### High Chairs Needed

We are in need of some additional safety approved high chairs to be donated to our church for our youngest members to use when we have congregational gatherings and meals. We now have two high chairs, a booster seat and two trays. If anyone has one they can donate, please contact the church office at 537-7006.

## *Let the Sunshine In!*

Like all of you, I'm excited about seeing the light shine in through new stain glass window coverings. This will happen even though it will take a little longer to complete than initially anticipated.

We have encountered a temporary delay in placing our Church on the State Register of Historic Sites. As you might recall, placing the Church on the register will result in approximately \$8,000 savings in doing the work of replacing the window coverings. When Bonnie Sherow consulted with the State Preservation Office, she was informed that the August agenda had filled a couple of months earlier, and that a place would be saved for considering the Church nomination on the next agenda, which will be December 1.

Two other concerns were raised by the state. The personnel had some minor concerns about the contractor, which are being satisfied. Also, they had concerns about the timing of the work, and their own experience and training in stain glass window repairs led them to prefer the work done in the spring rather than in the fall.

You, the congregation, have been so generous in providing for this project that it could be funded with the pledges to date. The Cabinet could have pushed the work ahead without resorting to listing our Church on the state register, but at a cost of approximately \$8,000 in savings that a listing would provide. This savings could go a long way in funding the tower chimes or some other worthy project. Given this, the Cabinet believed it fiscally prudent to first list the Church on the state register, proceed with the work in the spring, acquire the tax credits of around \$8,000, market those credits for their cash value, and use the cash to fund the chime work or some other worthy project.

Have faith: A new light will shine forth in our sanctuary.

Sincerely,  
*Jim Sherow*, Moderator



## **Tower Chime Update**

**The Return to Tulsa:** Chris Hogan, Ryan Wilson, & Jim Flak met me in Tulsa Friday night, and we completed the removal of the deteriorated chime rack in twelve hours on Saturday, August 25. Sincere thanks are due to St. Anonymous II for paying for our lodging and the gasoline for Chris's truck.

**The Strikers:** Last week I packed and shipped 160 striker parts to a plating shop in Wichita. The replating expense is being covered by St. Anonymous III. After the parts are replated, reassembly can begin in earnest. Please let me know if you can help. Four of the twenty small bobbin coils for the strikers are now rewound; thank you, Judy Willingham! This week I expect to deliver to Kansas City the 30 striker parts that need to be sandblasted; we need funding for the sandblasting (\$100-\$150), primer and paint (about \$50.00), and the degreasing solutions that have been used to prepare the parts for sandblasting or replating (\$40.00).

**The Power:** The three horsepower motor/generator unit that will provide the direct current that operates the strikers has been thoroughly reconditioned and is in position in one of our basement equipment rooms. Thank you to Burke's nephew Dennie Bayer for delivering the unit all the way to our basement! This unit is from a chime system in Indiana whose tower was condemned. The combined purchase and reconditioning cost is \$1,523.00.

**The Cast Iron Cradles:** There has been no progress on the cradles that hold the strikers and the chimes. Assistance and/or financial backing for a machine shop bill are needed to get the rusted lag bolts removed.

We have three months until Advent arrives, and there are many opportunities to help with your time, talent, and treasure to get the chimes ringing for that wonderful season. Please call the church office at 537-7006.

With gratitude,  
*Bill Pugh*

## Thank You Worship Volunteers

Thank you so much to all of you who helped to greet, read scripture and/or host Fellowship Hour over the summer. It is occasionally difficult to fill all the small (and sometimes not-so-small) Sunday positions that allow us to have such a spiritual and honest time with each other. Without all of you, I fear worship wouldn't have been so welcoming and meaningful. For those who volunteered on numerous occasions, for many needs, the thanks is multiplied. Of course, new faces are always welcome! Please find me after church or call me at home to let me know how you might like to give of your time. We currently have September openings.

*Chantel Vogel*

## Shepherd's Crossing Board Rep Needed

Shepherd's Crossing is an ecumenical ministry in Manhattan that provides assistance in the areas of rent, utilities, and prescription medications, as well as referrals to other agencies and general budget counseling. It's a big job, and requires a big heart.

Linda Richter has represented our congregation on the board of Shepherd's Crossing, and she can verify that First Congregational can offer a helpful and important voice for financially stressed people who come for help. We thank Linda for all the service she has given.

We are seeking a volunteer to be on Shepherd's Crossing board, which meets at Noon on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday of the month. Call the church office, 537-7006, to volunteer for this ministry of service.

## 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.

## Christian Education for Kids

### Sunday School Happenings

I want to take this opportunity to thank all of the congregation for your wonderful support as I transition into the new duties of Christian Education Director. I am learning so much about our members, our children and youth and about our church.

Just in case any of you would like to contact me to volunteer, ask questions, or let me know about an exciting idea you may have, here is my contact information. I will have regular office hours at the church on Tuesday mornings from 10:00 A.M. to Noon. You can also contact me to make arrangements for appointments outside of those hours. If you want to send me an email, please send it to: [CEdirector@uccmanhattan.org](mailto:CEdirector@uccmanhattan.org).

Just a few notes about our children's Sunday School program for you to know. We have a wonderful curriculum that allows for a lot of diversity in teaching. Our classes are the Owls, who are our pre-kindergarten and kindergarten age; the Wolf Pack, between 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> graders; and the Bears, who are 4<sup>th</sup> through 6<sup>th</sup> graders. Our youth are guided by Tracey Weston; they are in 7<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> grade. We are in need of teachers for the second half of September and from October on through December. So if you are willing to stretch your wings to teach drama, cooking, computer searches, puppetry and more, please come see me. We need you.

Please extend your thanks to the youth who are assisting in our Extended Sessions for children under 7 years of age. Shai Buelow and Chloe Weston will be taking on the majority of this responsibility with Neil Dayton filling in occasionally. Please let these wonderful young people how much we appreciate their efforts. We are also looking for a few adults who are willing to provide occasional supervision and guidance during this time of our services. A BIG THANKS to Shai, Chloe and Neil.

Your Servant in Christ,  
*Mary Ray*, Christian Education Director

## Worship & Church Volunteers

### September 2, 2007

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**Sanctuary Flowers...** Betty Garzio  
**Greeters** ..... Sandy O'Grady, Brent Maner  
**Scripture Reader** ..... Bill Richter  
**Word for Children** .. Gretchen Lewis  
**Fellowship Hour** ..... Judy Willingham  
**Lawn Mowing** ..... Al Cochran (*through September 8*)

### September 9, 2007

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**Sanctuary Flowers...** Judy Ahrens  
**Greeters** ..... Barbara Withee, *Volunteer Needed*  
**Scripture Reader** ..... Sabrina Bowker  
**Word for Children** .. Rev. R. Kent Cormack  
**Fellowship Hour** ..... Volunteers Needed  
**Lawn Mowing** ..... Leo Schell (*through September 15*)

### September 16, 2007

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**Sanctuary Flowers...** TBA  
**Greeters** ..... *Volunteers Needed*  
**Scripture Reader** ..... Dave Smit  
**Word for Children** .. Jean Hill  
**Fellowship Hour** ..... Jo Foy & Mary Ray  
**Lawn Mowing** ..... Brent Maner (*through September 22*)

### September 23, 2007

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**Sanctuary Flowers...** TBA  
**Greeters** ..... *Volunteers Needed*  
**Scripture Reader** ..... Judy Willingham  
**Word for Children** .. TBA  
**Fellowship Hour** ..... *Volunteers Needed*  
**Lawn Mowing** ..... Brad Logan (*through September 30*)

## 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 (Sandz720@yahoo.com).*



### September 2, 2007

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**Chief Cook** ..... Bob Atchison  
**Volunteers** ..... The Manhattan Mennonite Church,  
Ann Gleason  
**Dessert** ..... Kay Sinnett

### September 9, 2007

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**Chief Cook** ..... Brent Maner  
**Volunteers** ..... KSU Animal Services, Ann Gleason  
**Dessert** ..... Sandy O'Grady

### September 16, 2007

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**Chief Cook** ..... Gretchen Lewis  
**Volunteers** ..... Nancy Remley and the KSU Student  
Association Organization, Ann Gleason  
**Dessert** ..... Joy Schell

### September 23, 2007

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**Chief Cook** ..... Ann Smit  
**Volunteers** ..... ESA Sorority  
**Dessert** ..... Ann Smit

### September 30, 2007

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**Chief Cook** ..... Paula Ford  
**Volunteers** ..... Kathy Bleam, Christy Crenshaw,  
Angela Hubler and family  
**Dessert** ..... Margery Bayer

## Community News

### Community Cultural Harmony Week

**Building a Diverse, Inclusive Manhattan Sept. 16-22**

CCHW is a cooperative effort of Kansas State University, the Student Union, the Union Program council, USD 383, and the City of Manhattan. All events are free of charge and open to the public. For a schedule of events, visit [www.k-state.edu/cchw](http://www.k-state.edu/cchw).

### Building a Diverse, Inclusive Manhattan: Strategies for Our Future

**Pioneer Hall, First Congregational United Church of Christ  
Saturday September 22, 9:30-3:00, Lunch Provided**

As a post-event to Community Cultural Harmony Week, you are invited to participate in a workshop focusing on practical strategies to address racism and sexism in organizations. The workshop, facilitated by Suzanne Pharr, will focus on proven strategies to develop a community-wide atmosphere where tolerance and respect for differences is more than just window dressing.

Join in helping build a diverse, strong, vibrant Manhattan. There will be no cost for this workshop, but you are asked to register by e-mailing your name, address, telephone number and email to [fhhrp@yahoo.com](mailto:fhhrp@yahoo.com) with subject line: Pharr Workshop.

### Laborfest Picnic

**Sunday September 2, City Park Pavilion Noon-2:00**

You are invited to the 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Laborfest Picnic. Speakers will include Heidi Zeller, coordinator of the Raise the Wage Campaign, a campaign to raise the Kansas state minimum wage, which is the lowest in the nation! Additional comments will be made by State Representatives Sydney Carlin and Tom Hawk, and State Senator Roger Reitz. Music will be provided by Kansas Weather.

Questions about Laborfest or the Living Wage Coalition? Call Sara at 785.564.2457.

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UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

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