



FIRST CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST NEWSLETTER

Volume 52 Number 14

September 12, 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.	www.uccmanhattan.org

9-11 + 6

*I looked on the earth and lo, it was waste and void;
and to the heavens and they had no light.*

*I looked on the mountains, and lo, they were quaking,
and all the hills moved to and fro.*

*I looked, and lo, there was no one at all,
and all the birds of the air had fled.*

*I looked, and lo, the fruitful land was a desert,
and all its cities were laid in ruins before the Lord....*

Those words, from the fourth chapter of the book of the prophet Jeremiah, were the words the lectionary appointed to be read on the Sunday that followed September 11, 2001. In that context, they were both painfully difficult to hear and eerily familiar. The wonder of creation returned to chaos and nothingness.

Because the lectionary is a 3 year cycle, we hear them again this Sunday, six years later, as a war drags on and more of God's creation is laid waste by environmental disregard.

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I so much prefer scriptures of hope and joy, yet I know that I need to hear these hard words that are not just words about Israel's destruction way back then, but are words about the tenuous nature of God's grace-filled world in the here and now.

The theologian Paul Tillich spoke of these words from Jeremiah in the opening of his book, *The Shaking of the Foundations*, published in 1955, the era of the hydrogen bomb. He wrote: "Today we must take [these words] seriously. For they describe with visionary power what the majority of human beings in our period have experienced, and what, perhaps in a not too distant future, all [hu]mankind will experience abundantly." Noting that the biblical text has always spoken of both the beginning and the end of the world, Tillich recalls words from 2nd Peter, "The heavens will vanish with a crackling roar, and the elements will melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works therein shall be burnt up." And he says, "This is no longer vision; it has become physics."

In our time, 9-11 + 6, the nuclear arms race that seemed to slow as the Cold War ended, has once again picked up its pace. We are in many ways less secure than ever before. A war of our making continues its grim toll unabated. Our thirst for more of almost everything stretches the planet to the breaking point. Nuclear annihilation or an environmental slow-death meltdown—there are days when we wonder which will it be and whether there is any grace left in the world.

Preacher and teacher Barbara Brown Taylor says that grace is "the mysterious strength God lends human beings who commit themselves to the work of transformation." (*Speaking of Sin*, p. 85-86.) Such transformative, costly grace is surely what the world desperately needs. Grace that would allow us to admit that we have made so many of our enemies, and which would empower us to make changes big enough to love them and us back into community. At 9-11 + 6, may we pray for such costly grace.

Sharing and Caring

Prayers and Concerns

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

Kudos

- **Congratulations to David Jones**, director of the Ecumenical Campus Ministry and campus pastor of the CrossRoads student ministry group at KSU, on being elected president-elect of the National Campus Ministry Association. David will serve a two-year term beginning July 2008. David is in his eleventh year at ECM, a cooperative campus ministry supported by the Presbyterian Church (USA), the United Church of Christ, and the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). CrossRoads offers hospitable space for students to freely explore questions important to their spiritual development as young adults, experience a diverse and supportive community of faith, and engage in meaningful service to others.

Thank You

- **Bill Pallett, Jerry Reynard, and Mike Miller** who spent the morning cleaning carpets around the church. Thanks guys. We'll try not to spill.
- **Judy Willingham** has been appointed to serve a 2-year term on the board of Ecumenical Campus Ministries. Thank you, Judy, for your willingness to serve.



NEIGHBORS IN NEED

September 23, 2007

Neighbors in Need is our annual appeal to support Justice and Witness Ministries and the Council of American Indian Ministry of the UCC. What does this mean?

As a church we are committed to bringing justice to all people whether it be at a local, state, national, or international level.

The United Church of Christ continues to work in the Gulf Coast area to make sure levies are safe, and helping people to return to their homes. We are working to change current laws that are hurting the family farmer, working to bring health care to all people, working to change No Child Left Behind to make sure that all children do indeed receive a quality education, and working to respond to the serious health threat of waste dumpsites commonly located in communities living in poverty and communities of color. The United Church of Christ's justice advocacy in these areas and many more is directly supported by Neighbors in Need.

Enclosed in this newsletter you will find an envelope in which to place your donation. Please do what you can to help us in our efforts to bring Justice for all of God's people.

Thank you for your summer music!

I would like to thank everyone who provided music this summer while the choir was taking its summer break. Many thanks to Mary Lee Cochran, Gretchen Lewis, Mary Ray, Jo Foy, Tracy Weston, Sean Weston, Chloe Weston, Frank Sidorfsky, Dona Sidorfsky, Laura Beth Cochran, Dory Ann Cochran, Allison Karnowski, Sharon Keane, The Manhattan Project String Quartet, and Al Cochran. Also, many thanks to Mark Stotler, Charlotte Sylvester, and Bill Pugh for accompanying. — *Jim Lewis*





8TH ANNUAL UCC PLANT SALE

The annual Plant Sale will be held for the first time in the fall, on Saturday, September 29, from 8:00-11:30 AM. Yes, that date will soon be here, but late September and early October are ideal for planting shrubs and perennials. Houseplants will also be welcome. The sale is to benefit The Second Helping and Shepherd's Crossing.

So, please pot up whatever plants you want to have in the sale. Next Sunday, I will have label kits for those who need them. If you need pots, let me know, and I will get some to you. There is a variety of jobs to do, so if you can help in any way, please let me know. Jobs include:

- Helping with publicity
- Getting donated shrubs from a local nursery (two pickup trucks would be helpful)
- Pricing donated items Friday night, and possibly pruning the shrubs a bit
- Setting up tables and areas Saturday morning (7:00 A.M.)
- Answering questions and assisting customers
- Helping customers check out
- Cleaning up

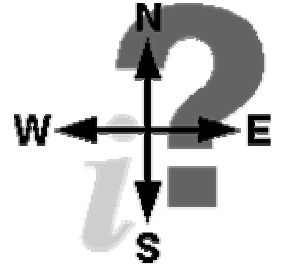
Many thanks for your plants and for your help.

Ann Smit

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

Inquirer's Lunch Sunday September 16 at Noon

Join us for lunch and learn more about First Congregational UCC. Child care is provided. No reservations necessary. We will conclude at about 1:30 P.M.



The lunch is 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.

Youth Corner

The youth are off to a good start this year with 6 attending the first fall Sunday School class and 9 attending the first youth meeting! In Sunday School we will be having guest speakers each week through December to talk about, well, anything they want! Don't be surprised if you get asked to meet with the youth. The main goal is for people to get a better idea of who the youth are and for the youth to gain more knowledge from those in our congregation.

The seventh graders will be meeting separately during that time to talk about transitions, money, new responsibilities, etc. The group will then have class together starting in January.

Youth will be receiving a newsletter soon outlining the fall schedule for Sunday Night Youth Group. Unless there is a special activity, youth will meet each Sunday evening from 7:00-8:30 P.M. at the church. If there is a movie being shown, the meeting will last until 9:00 P.M.

Christian Education for Kids

Sunday School has begun, and we are very pleased to have several new children joining classes. The growth in numbers has instigated some changes and some reinforcement of guidelines that were already in place. With the increase in the number of babies and children in the nursery, we will be hiring an additional nursery assistant. Children under 3 years of age may be taken to the nursery for Sunday School and during services. Please sign your child in and give the attendant any information about special needs or circumstances. We also ask that you do not bring a child to the nursery that you know is ill.

A new Sunday School rotation begins in October. We will be learning about the Psalms, and we have some openings for teachers. Please let Mary Ray know if you would be willing to teach. We have opportunities for drama, singing, art, food preparation and many more areas. Please come join us.

Extended Session has been reviewed by the Christian Education Board. Reminder: Extended Session is for children between the ages of 3 years and 7 years. Children age 8 and older have the opportunity to enjoy the entire Sunday services. Children under 3 years old can go to the nursery. The Extended Session leaders will be given a phone number that they can call if there are problems or an emergency. One of the Christian Education Board members will have their cell phone set to vibrate and will respond immediately if called.

For those children remaining in church, Busy Bags are available if distraction is needed for our younger members. It is requested that electronic or card games not be played during the church services.

— *Mary Ray*, Director of Christian Education

The UCC at 50—General Synod Highs Adult Forum Sundays at 9:30 A.M.

September 16 Bill Moyers “Argument & Altar Call” We continue 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.

Worship & Church Volunteers

September 16, 2007

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

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*)

September 30, 2007

Sanctuary Flowers... Jim Fuller
Greeters Jim & Marian Fuller, Brent Maner
Scripture Reader Jo Foy
Word for Children .. TBA
Fellowship Hour *Volunteers Needed*
Lawn Mowing Jim Hodgson (*through October 6*)

October 7, 2007

Sanctuary Flowers... Ellen Logan & Kara Burns
Greeters *Volunteers Needed*
Scripture Reader *Volunteer Needed*
Word for Children .. TBA
Fellowship Hour *Volunteers Needed*
Lawn Mowing Bill Pallett (*through October 13*)

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.



September 16, 2007

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

September 23, 2007

Chief Cook Ann Smit
Volunteers ESA Sorority
Dessert Ann Smit

September 30, 2007

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

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 budget counseling. We thank Linda Richter for all the service she has given as our representative!

Now is your chance to volunteer to represent our church on the Shepherd's Crossing board. The board meets at noon on the 3rd Monday of each month. Call the church office, 537-7006, to volunteer for this ministry of service.

Community News

Pumpkin Patch Arts & Crafts Fair at CiCo Park September 28, 10:00-8:00 and September 29 , 10:00-4:00

Please join us for the annual Pumpkin Patch Arts and Crafts Fair. Senior and disabled shopping will be held from 9:00-10:00 A.M. both days. Food will be available, and admission is free. All proceeds benefit Mercy Regional Health Center.

The Older Kansan Employment Program

provides employers referrals for full time, part time, seasonal, temporary and permanent employment. Or program is a FREE service that helps workers 55 and over find employment and connects employers to older workers. For more information please call the agency at 776-9294, Monday-Friday from 9:00-1:00 P.M.

Community Cultural Harmony Week (formerly Racial Ethnic Harmony Week), is now in its twentieth year. Founded in 1988 by Barbara A. Baker, this year's events will be celebrated from September 16-21, 2007, with the theme, "Building A Diverse Inclusive Manhattan." Sponsors of CCHW are the City of Manhattan, Kansas State University, and USD 383. The common goal of Community Cultural Harmony Week is to promote racial and cultural equality. The focus is to recognize the rich diversity of different cultures and different customs of all people who comprise our community, to raise awareness, urge tolerance, acceptance, inclusion, and celebrate those differences. **Additional information can be found at www.k-state.edu/cchw.**

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