



**FIRST CONGREGATIONAL
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
NEWSLETTER**

Volume 53 Number 20

October 28, 2009

Sunday School 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

For all the saints...

Rarely does it all align so well. Saturday night you get an extra hour to Trick-or-Treat, sing Reformation hymns, or to rest up for church. Your choice. **Daylight time ends.** Then on Sunday morning, we are fully booked. It is **All Saints' Day**, when we remember that great cloud of witnesses who have gone before us, particularly those from our congregation who have died in the past year. It is also **Stewardship Consecration Sunday**—please remember to return your commitment card! As a first Sunday of the month, we will celebrate **Holy Communion** and will **Fill the Breadbasket** with gifts of non-perishable food for the Flinthills Breadbasket and The Second Helping. After worship, it's the first of two **Inquirers Luncheons.**

Some would say we should spread things out a bit more. Or you can rejoice that there's a lot going on around First Congregational UCC this fall. Of the long list, it is the celebration of All Saints' Day (which this year falls on Sunday) which I find particularly meaningful. Each year, as we *[continued p. 2]*

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name those who have been saints in our lives and the chime tolls on and on, I am keenly aware of what a remarkable organism the church is—spanning not only continents, but time itself.

We are not as prone to notice the time element in these parts where even the old churches have been around for only a century an a half. It was inescapable while I was in Oxford this summer. Those of us at the Theology Summer School were staying at Christ Church College—not one of the oldest colleges by any means, but unique in that the college chapel is also the cathedral for the diocese of Oxford. But that's only the recent history. (since the 16th century.)

Go back to the 7th century, and you'll encounter an interesting woman named Frideswide. She was born to Didanus (an Anglo-Saxon king) and his wife Safrida around 650 AD. Princess Frideswide became a nun and founded a priory near the spot of an ford across the river Thames that was used to get oxen across the river (literally, an Ox ford). Soon, however, Algar a Mercian king, tried to woo her. When Frideswide refused him, Algar tried to rape her, but she hid in the forest to escape him. After she returned to the priory, Algar continued his advances until he was struck blind. It is said that no king dared enter Oxford for several centuries thereafter.

The wooden church is long gone. A monastery for Augustinian canons called the Priory Church of St. Frideswide was built on the site in the 12th century. The church included an elaborate stone shrine for the holy relics of St. Frideswide—a shrine visited by pilgrims for centuries. For reasons lost to time, St. Frideswide came to be a patron saint for women who had difficulty conceiving and bearing children.

Skip ahead to 1525, when Thomas Cardinal Wolsey, Lord Chancellor of England and Archbishop of York, dissolved the priory and began building a grand new college beside it—Cardianl College. He resolved to tear down the church and replace it with a much grander building. Initially, about half of the nave was torn down to make way for the huge college quadrangle—still Oxford's largest. But the best laid plans...

One of the women who came to pray at the shrine of St. Frideswide was Catherine of Aragon (the first wife of Henry VIII). As history remembers, her life included miscarriages, stillbirths, and infants who died in a matter of weeks. Pregnant six times, she only had one child survive—Mary. With Henry increasingly unhappy about the lack of a male heir, it was no wonder she went to Oxford to pray at St. Frideswide's shrine.

Some say her prayers were unanswered. Others say that St. Frideswide heard her prayers, but decided rather than a son, it was perhaps time for a reformation. And that is what we got. With the sister of his mistress pregnant with his child, and unable to get an annulment of his marriage to Catherine from Rome, Henry made himself head of the church in England. He got his annulment, and among other things, he got Cardinal College. Henry renamed it Christ Church College, and radically revised the building program. To this day, you see the stones jutting out of the wall to support vaults that were never built. But Henry also stopped the plan to tear down the rest of the 12th century church.

The reformation soon brought about the destruction of St. Frideswide's shrine. It was smashed and discarded, but Frideswide was not forgotten. She remained the patron saint of Oxford and the cathedral. In the 1870's some fragments of her shrine were discovered. In 1985, more pieces were found during a dig in the cloister. In 2002, the shrine was reassembled and returned to its place in a side chapel of the church.

During my two weeks at Christ Church, I was able to attend daily worship in this ancient cathedral, a place both spared and scarred by the Reformation, a place where many of our first Congregational pastors were educated and ordained, a place where later reformers John and Charles Wesley were ordained priests. You don't worship in such a place without an awareness of the great cloud of witnesses—some of them remembered, most of them not. The church across time is all around you. Fascinating stories of faith, failure, and the best laid plans revised.

For all the saints, who from their labors rest...Alleluia!

Grace & Peace,



Sharing and Caring

Prayers and Concerns

Please call the church office for further information.

E-MAIL PRAYER CHAIN

If you wish to be added to the First Congregational e-mail prayer chain, please contact office@uccmanhattan.org.



Helping

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

Celebrate the Harvest

Potluck Dinner Sunday, November 22

Join us after worship for great food and fellowship. Each family is asked to bring a main dish and either a salad, vegetable or dessert to share. The Vitality Team will coordinate the meal.

Please bring your own table service to make cleanup easier. Coffee and other drinks will be provided.

Invite some friends and neighbors to join you in this Congregational holiday tradition!



Remember to Keep It Personal A Stewardship Message

Then he will answer them, "Truly I tell you, just as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to me." (Matthew 25:45)

This kid had a smile the size of Alaska. Probably eight or nine years old, he stood at my door with a rake twice his height. What he didn't have was a leaf bag. Neither did I on this windy Wednesday before Thanksgiving. Besides my adult children promised that their contribution to the holiday was a day's yard work. The disappointed little boy trudged back up the driveway with drooping shoulders.

The familiar sheep and goats parable reminds us that when we feed one hungry person or make sure someone is clothed, sheltered, visited, healed, given hope, we are caring for Jesus Christ. Like most people I've done those things through personal involvement or my checkbook. Faith practices of hospitality and justice include Thanksgiving baskets, mittens for the school mitten tree, board games for the correctional facility, phone calls and emails to friends or strangers for the prayer chain, and the sacrificial pledge I make this month to my church with its local mission and connection to so many places through Our Church's Wider Mission. I congratulate my sheepy self.

But parables are supposed to pinch. The flip side of this one suggests that every lost opportunity to help one person rebuffs Christ. Sometimes I'm too tired for the phone call. Sometimes I don't want to share my privacy with a relative. Sometimes (at this season) my credit card feels wafer thin. Sometimes I don't spend five dollars for a big Alaska-size smile the day before Thanksgiving. Then I recognize the person walking away with the rake ... and I remember to keep it personal.

Stewardship Commitment Sunday is November 1
Please share your plan to give in 2010.

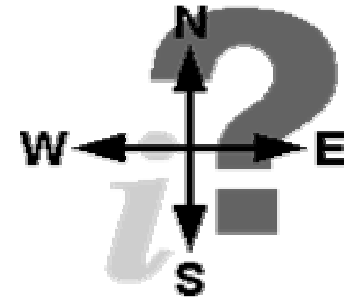


God is still speaking,

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 November 1st & 15th
from about 12:15 to 2:00 P.M.

Lunch will be provided.

Child care is available

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 at 537-7006.

Study & Discussion Opportunities for Adults

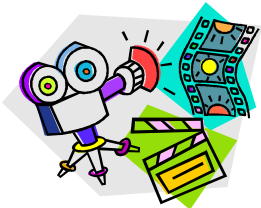
Thursday Evening Bible Study

On October 29, our Thursday evening Bible Study will resume. We meet at 5:30, and you are welcome to bring a brown bag supper or snacks. Child Care will be provided. We conclude by 6:45. Taizé worship follows at 7:00.

A Sacred Conversation on Race

The United Church of Christ and the National Council of Churches has invited congregations to engage in *A Sacred Conversation on Race*. As part of that conversation, the Adult Forum on Sunday mornings is focusing our attention on the subject of race and racism in America. We meet at 9:30 A.M. each Sunday in Pioneer Hall, and you are invited. The remaining forums include: "White Privilege," "Is Affirmative Action Still Needed?" and "Do Segregated Churches Imply Racism."

Youth Events



Sunday November 1,
7:00-9:00 P.M. Movie Night
at Church

Women of the Church

Lunch Bunch Women of the Church will host Lunch Bunch at The Bluemont Room at the KSU Union on **Wednesday, November 4**. It's not for women only—everyone is welcome to join us for lunch at 11:30 A.M. *The parking garage is available at \$1.50 per hour. You are encouraged to carpool.*

Worship & Church Volunteers

November 1, 2009

Flowers..... **Volunteer Needed**
Greeters..... Mary Ellen Barkley, Jim Mock
Scripture Reader..... Judy Ahrens
Word for Children ... Jim Lewis
Fellowship Hour Judy Ahrens, Virginia Bigbee
Lawn/Snow Removal Dan Clark (*through November 7*)

November 8, 2009

Flowers..... **Volunteer Needed**
Greeters..... Marsha Tannehill, Dale & Anne Stearns
Scripture Reader..... Marsha Tannehill
Word for Children ... Martha Miller
Fellowship Hour Kathy Bleam
Lawn/Snow Removal Jeff Keller (*through November 14*)

November 15, 2009

Flowers..... **Volunteer Needed**
Greeters..... Don Cannon & Jim Flak,
Knick & Caren Knicklebine
Scripture Reader..... Bill Richter
Word for Children ... R. Kent Cormack
Fellowship Hour Gretchen Lewis, Ann Smit
Lawn/Snow Removal Donna Keyser & Millie Schroeder
(*through November 21*)

Notice of Congregational Meeting

The Annual Budget and Election meeting will be held **Sunday, November 8**, following morning worship. Agenda items will include presentation of the proposed 2010 operating budget and the election of officers, cabinet members, and board members for 2010.

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 Mandy Strawn at 537-7006.



November 1, 2009

Chief Cook.....*Volunteer Needed*
Volunteers.....Ann Gleason, Caren Knicklebine,
Volunteers Needed
Dessert.....Mandy Strawn

November 8, 2009

Chief Cook.....Dale Stearns
Volunteers.....Ann Gleason, Anne Stearns, Phi Eta Sigma
Dessert.....*Volunteer Needed*

November 15, 2009

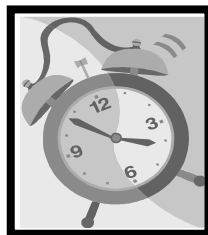
Chief Cook.....*Volunteer Needed*
Volunteers.....Ann Gleason, Caren Knicklebine,
Delta Sigma Theta
Dessert.....*Volunteer Needed*

November 22, 2009

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

Daylight Savings Time Ends

on Sunday, November 1. Remember to set your clocks back one hour Saturday night. Enjoy an extra hour of sleep!



Community News

Fair Trade Marketplace

November 18-19, 10:00 A.M. to 7:00 P.M. at the K-State Student Union Courtyard, Ground Floor. The market features products such as coffee, textiles, jewelry, and purses from around the world. Fair Trade embraces the following principles: Fair wages in the local context, participatory workplaces, environmental sustainability, financial and technical support for producers, consumer education, respect for cultural identity, gender equality, and public accountability. For more information, visit the Fair Trade Federation at www.fairtradefederation.org.

German Ethnic Dinner & International Crafts Sale

November 15 at Pottorf Hall from 12:00 to 6:00 P.M.

Dinner includes borscht, whole wheat bread, whole hog sausage, New Years cookies and a beverage. Tickets are \$8.50 for adults and \$4.00 for children under 12 years of age. One dollar from every adult ticket will support the Trinidad & Tobago service trip. The crafts are from Ten Thousand Villages and are made by artisans in developing countries. All proceed from the craft sale will be returned to promote such self-help projects. Meal purchase is not required for crafts or bake sale—come and browse! For more information or tickets call 539-4079 or visit our website at www.manhattan.ks.us.mennonite.net.

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**700 Poyntz Avenue
Manhattan, KS 66502
(785) 537-7006**

uccmanhattan.org



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 All Saints' Day 8:30 Choir Rehearsal 9:30 Church School 10:45 Worship & Communion Fill the Breadbasket 12:00 Fellowship Hour 12:15 Inquirers Luncheon 5:15 Second Helping	2	3	4 11:30 Lunch Bunch 7:00 Board Meetings	5 2:00 Domestic Science 5:30 Bible Study 7:00 Taizé	6 9:00 Crisis Center Meeting 6:00 Storytime	7
8 8:30 Choir Rehearsal 9:30 Church School 10:45 Worship 12:00 Fellowship Hour Congregational Meeting 5:15 Second Helping	9 12:00 Newsletter Deadline 3:00 AAUW Dinner Prep	10 3:00 KSU Fair Trade, Granola Prep	11 Veterans' Day	12 5:30 Bible Study 7:00 Taizé	13 9:00 Crisis Center Meeting 6:00 Storytime	14 9:00 Sweet Adelines Mtg. 10:00 N.C. Assn. Committee on Ministry
15 8:30 Choir Rehearsal 9:30 Church School 10:45 Worship 12:00 Fellowship Hour 12:15 Inquirers Luncheon 5:15 Second Helping	16	17 10:00 NC Assn. Clergy 7:00 P-FLAG	18 11:45 Manhattan Ministers Assn. 6:30 Vitality Team 7:30 Cabinet	19 5:30 Bible Study 7:00 Taizé	20 9:00 Crisis Center Meeting 6:00 Storytime	21
22 Reign of Christ 8:30 Choir Rehearsal 9:30 Church School 10:45 Worship 12:00 Harvest Potluck Dinner 5:15 Second Helping	23 12:00 Newsletter Deadline	24	25	26 Thanksgiving Day Offices closed	27 9:00 Crisis Center Meeting 6:00 Storytime	28
29 Advent I 8:30 Choir Rehearsal 9:30 Church School 10:45 Worship 12:00 Fellowship Hour 5:15 Second Helping	30	 <h1 style="font-family: cursive;">November</h1>				

Birthdays

1	Kyle Weston	20	Charles Thompson
6	Ian MacDonald	20	Tom Yeager
7	Pat Caffey	20	Jim Ahrens
11	Richard Hoag	21	Jenny Clark
11	Elise Dunnigan	22	Barbara Withee
13	Burke Bayer	22	Reta McDermott
15	Jerry Hanna	23	Paul Angle
15	David Bayer	23	Dan Clark
15	Kyle Mankin	27	Gene Stepp
16	Paul Hargrove	27	Al Cochran
18	Jonathan Vogel	28	Charles Barkley
19	Sara Strawn		

Anniversaries

12	Tom & Tammi Yeager
19	Joe & Grizelda MacDonald
22	Pate & Judy Willingham
24	Myron & Nancy Westgate

November

<u>Dates to Remember</u>	
November 1	All Saints' Day Stewardship Sunday Fill the Breadbasket Inquirers Luncheon <i>(Remember Daylight Time ends)</i>
November 4	Lunch Bunch Board Meetings
November 8	Congregational Meeting
November 9	Newsletter Deadline
November 15	Inquirers Luncheon
November 18	Vitality Team Cabinet Meeting
November 22	Harvest Potluck Dinner
November 23	Newsletter Deadline
November 26	Thanksgiving Day Office Closed
November 29	Advent Begins