



**FIRST CONGREGATIONAL
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
NEWSLETTER**

Volume 53 Number 21

November 10, 2009

Sunday School at 9:30 A.M.
Sunday Worship at 10:45 A.M.
Second Helping Dinner at 5:15 P.M.
Thursday Evening Taizé at 7:00 P.M.

700 Poyntz Avenue
Manhattan, Kansas 66502
telephone 785-537-7006
www.uccmanhattan.org

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!



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Sharing and Caring

Prayers and Concerns

Please contact the church office for further information.

Helping

- **Need a ride to church?** Contact one of our transportation volunteers: Jim & Carolyn Hodgson, Bill Pallett, Mike & Martha Miller, or Jeff Keller.
- **Home Communion Visits** are available by contacting the office or the pastor. The Deacons can arrange to bring communion to your home on the first Sunday of each month as we celebrate the sacrament in worship. Visits at other times can be arranged with the pastor.

E~MAIL PRAYER CHAIN

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



Thank You

- Dear Covenant Family of First Congregational Church:
While usually not at a loss for words, it is most difficult to convey the depth of our gratitude, appreciation and affection for the many friends we leave here at First Congregational church. We want to say thank you to all who helped with our “send off” on Sunday October 25. We leave feeling very much loved and appreciated (a wonderful feeling).

We also want to thank everyone for the role they played in helping forge our blended family. While the expression about, “it takes a village to raise a child,” sometimes seems trite, in our case, it definitely helped to have a faith community behind us as we tried to make our way in raising five children. Thank you for your patience, understanding, caring, compassion and support for all of us through the last 14+ years. Please stay in touch.

Love, *Melissa & R.C. Jones*

- Thank you **Jim Mock** for serving as a representative of First Congregational Church on the board at ECM. Jim will be serving along with Judy Willingham but there is still one more opening if anyone would like to volunteer. Please contact Jerry Hanna if you are willing to serve.



It will soon be the season for **Hanging of the Greens**

This year you have two opportunities to help:

Saturday, November 28 at 9:00 A.M. members and friends are invited to gather and help decorate the sanctuary with poinsettias and greens for the seasons of Advent and Christmas.

Sunday, November 29 following Fellowship Hour the Deacons invite you to help them hang the greens in Pioneer and Blachly Halls and to decorate the Chrismon Tree in Pioneer Hall.

Poinsettias

The Advent season brings the opportunity for you to provide poinsettias in memory of or in honor of someone important to you as we decorate the church for Advent and Christmas.

The cost to donate Poinsettias is \$10.00 per plant.

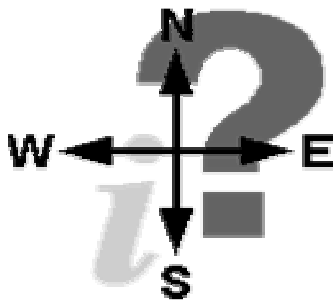
Please fill out the enclosed order form and return it to the church office with your check made out to “First Congregational UCC.”



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 Lunch

Sunday November 15th

from about 12:15 to 2:00 P.M.

Lunch will be provided.

Child care will be 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.



World AIDS Day Service

Tuesday, December 1
at 7:00 P.M.

First Congregational
United Church of Christ

The Regional Aids Project will hold its annual World AIDS Day service at First Congregational United Church of Christ. This is always a moving time of memory and hope. The service begins at 7:00 P.M. and is followed by a time of fellowship.



2010 Mission Trip to Pine Ridge Reservation, South Dakota

Our First Congregational UCC mission trip to help with housing on the Pine Ridge Reservation in South Dakota is planned for the week of **August 7-13, 2010**. Please check your calendars. Those who are interested in participating should contact Judy Willingham at 537-7006 or email her at office@uccmanhattan.org. We need to firm up the list of those going and send in our deposit of \$35/person.

The total cost for accommodations and meals for the time at the Reservation will be \$350 each. The drive from Manhattan to Pine Ridge is about 13 hours, and we have a 6-7 passenger van volunteered. Some kind of fund-raising is likely, so keep tuned!

— Judy Willingham



The Doane College Choir

will be giving a concert at our church on the evening of **Saturday, January 30, 2010**. They will also sing in our worship service the following morning. This is the last stop on the tour for this UCC-related college from Crete, Nebraska, and we're looking forward to the evening concert and to hearing the choir the next day in church.

However, we will need to find housing for about 50 students, and we're asking for congregational help. If you have an extra bed or two, and are willing to house folks on Saturday night and get them to the church on Sunday morning, please call the church office or sign up on the sheet on the office door this Sunday. Please let us know how many beds you have, and whether they are singles or doubles.

Thank you so much!
Gretchen Lewis, on behalf of the choir

From the Board of Trustees

Fall Clean up—December 5



The annual Fall Clean-Up day for the church grounds is scheduled for **Saturday, December 5th** beginning at 9:00 A.M. Please bring gloves and garden equipment (including rakes). With many hands, this job may take only a couple hours. If you only have an hour to spare, that is OK, too! Pickup trucks to haul away the leaves are also a great help.

Stewardship Update Thank you members of First Congregational Church who have pledged for 2010. Thus far we have received 36 pledges totaling \$102,138.51 from pledges. Our basic goal for 2010 is \$150,000—we must raise that much in order to avoid cutting valued staff or programs. If we can exceed that level, we can reduce the projected deficit or extend our mission and ministry. If you would like to make a pledge, please fill out a pledge card or call the church office.

Raise the Roof Funds We have had a good response to our request for funds to cover the costs to fix the church roofs. We have received pledges and/or gifts that total \$5,620 toward our goal of \$12,000. The Board of Trustees thanks you for your generous support of this campaign.

Study & Discussion Opportunities for Adults

Thursday Evening Bible Study

Our Thursday evening Bible Study is up and running, and you still have time to check it out! We have chosen the book *Velvet Elvis: Repainting the Christian Faith* as a jumping off point for our discussions this fall. We meet at 5:30 P.M. in Blachly Hall, and you are welcome to bring a brown bag supper or snacks. Child Care is provided. We conclude by 6:45. Taizé worship follows.

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 in America. We meet at 9:30 A.M. each Sunday in Pioneer Hall. Remaining forums include: "Is Affirmative Action Still Needed?" and "Do Segregated Churches Imply Racism."

Christian Education for Kids



Christmas Play: The Christmas play rehearsals will begin Sunday, November 15 at 9:25 A.M. All Sunday School children are welcome to join the musical entitled **Sleepover at the Stable**. It features different stable animals interacting with each other regarding the birth of Christ.

Please contact CE Director Grizelda MacDonald immediately should you want to participate in the play (if you did not attend this past Sunday's character introductions). All rehearsals will occur downstairs in Andover Hall before class commences.

The Sunday School Christmas play will be presented on December 13 during the worship service.

Children's Sunday School Curriculum

The present Sunday School curriculum for Pre-K, grades K-2, and grades 3-5 is **Gather Round**. This curriculum was introduced in August for the entire year. However, the Our Whole Lives (OWL) curriculum will run concurrently with Gather



Round. An OWL class of grades 4-6 consisting of 4 students commenced in October and will end in November. Students in these grade levels who are not participating in OWL will be accommodated with the regular Gather Round curriculum. The regular class teacher for this level is Jeff Keller. The regular class teacher for K-2 is Sue Gerth, who will remain the teacher until the commencement of OWL for K-1. She will be available to accommodate those children not participating in the OWL program. The OWL curriculum will be introduced to parents of K-1 in January 2010. Classes will commence in February and will span an 8 week period.

Sunday School Teachers: The Sunday School teachers for the coming months will be as follows:

| | | |
|------------|---------------|------------------------------|
| Pre-K | Dave Smit | December 2009- February 2010 |
| Grades K-2 | Sue Gerth | December 2009- February 2010 |
| Grades 3-5 | Jeff Keller | December 2009- May 2010 |
| OWL K-1 | Angela Hubler | February 2010 - April 2010 |

Classroom Locations: OWL (Our Whole Lives) classes, the K-2 class, and Grades 3-5 class are hosted in the basement. Pre-K is hosted on the second floor in the crafts room. Christmas play rehearsals will occur downstairs in Andover Hall before classes commence.

Nominating Committee Report 2010 Officers and Board Members

2010 Nominating Committee appointed by Cabinet
Jean Hill-Chair(2009), Don Cannon (2010), Martha Miller (2011)

BOARD OF DEACONS

12- members, 2-year terms

1 year remaining

| | | | |
|---------------|------|--------------------|------|
| Martha Miller | 2010 | Mary Ellen Barkley | 2010 |
| Chantel Vogel | 2010 | Jim Mock | 2010 |
| Ann Smit | 2010 | Brad Logan | 2010 |

2 years remaining

| | | | |
|-----------------|------|----------------|------|
| Carolyn Hodgson | 2011 | Donna Keyser | 2011 |
| Angela Hubler | 2011 | Vickie Korroch | 2011 |
| Sean Weston | 2011 | Dale Stearns | 2011 |

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

9 members, 3-year-terms

1 year remaining

| | | | |
|-------------|------|-------------------|------|
| Jan Lange | 2010 | Dan Clark | 2011 |
| Jim Hodgson | 2010 | Mike Miller | 2011 |
| Jim Lewis | 2010 | Lauren Ritterbush | 2011 |

2 years remaining

3 years remaining

| | |
|-------------------|------|
| Millie Schroeder | 2012 |
| Elain Donnoe | 2012 |
| Knick Knicklebine | 2012 |

MISSION AND OUTREACH

6 members, 2-year terms

1 year remaining

| | | | |
|--------------|------|------------------|------|
| Jerry Hanna | 2010 | Marian Fuller | 2011 |
| Victor Force | 2010 | Jim Fuller | 2011 |
| Sue Gerth | 2010 | Marsha Tannehill | 2011 |

2-years remaining

BOARD OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

6 members, 2-year terms

1 year remaining

| | |
|---------------|------|
| Dave Smit | 2010 |
| Amanda Tross | 2010 |
| Tracey Weston | 2010 |

2 years remaining

| | |
|----------------------|------|
| Chloe Weston | 2011 |
| <u>position open</u> | 2011 |
| <u>position open</u> | 2011 |

CABINET AT LARGE

3 Members, 3-year terms

| | |
|------------|------|
| Joy Schell | 2010 |
| Jim Ahrens | 2011 |
| Judy Davis | 2012 |

MODERATOR

| | |
|----------------|------|
| Gretchen Lewis | 2010 |
|----------------|------|

MODERATOR-ELECT

| | |
|--------------|------|
| Sue Zschoche | 2011 |
|--------------|------|

PAST MODERATOR

| | |
|--------------|------|
| Craig Weston | 2009 |
|--------------|------|

CHURCH CO-CLERKS

| |
|------------------------------|
| Virginia Bigbee (membership) |
| Judy Willingham (recording) |

This slate of officers and board members was elected at the November 8 Congregational Meeting. Two vacancies remain. If you would be interested in serving on the Christian Education Board, please speak with a member of the nominating committee.

Worship & Church Volunteers

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
Snow Removal Donna Keyser & Millie Schroeder
(through November 21)

November 22, 2009

Flowers Barbara Withee
Greeters Atina & Jerry Hanna
Scripture Reader Dale Stearns
Word for Children ... Tracey Weston
Fellowship Hour *Harvest Potluck*
Snow Removal Al Cochran (through November 28)

November 29, 2009

Flowers *Volunteer Needed*
Greeters *Volunteer Needed*, Dan & Ben Clark
Scripture Reader Dave Smit
Word for Children ... Atina Hanna
Fellowship Hour *Volunteer Needed*
Snow Removal Dave Smit (through December 5)

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 or office@uccmanhattan.org.



November 15, 2009

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

November 22, 2009

Chief Cook Sandy O'Grady
Volunteers ESA Sorority
Dessert *Volunteer Needed*

November 29, 2009

Chief Cook Ann Smit, Sue Zschoche
Volunteers KSU Nutrition Department
Dessert *Volunteer Needed*

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.

Holiday Bereavement Sessions

Home Care & Hospice is offering Free Holiday Bereavement sessions for anyone who is grieving the loss of a loved one and is finding the upcoming holidays overwhelming. This is a free educational grief support group that is open to all who want to receive support, receive tips, and learn coping skills.

It is being offered at four different times. A person just needs to choose the most convenient date. The dates are:

| | | |
|---------|-------------|-----------------|
| Tuesday | November 10 | 12:00-1:30 P.M. |
| Tuesday | November 17 | 5:30-7:00 P.M. |
| Tuesday | December 8 | 12:00-1:30 P.M. |
| Tuesday | December 15 | 5:30-7:00 P.M. |

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