



FIRST CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST NEWSLETTER

Volume 54 Number 4

February 24, 2010

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

What does it cost you?

In Sunday’s worship, I suggested that the choices Jesus made while “tempted” in the wilderness were about the core of his identity. The choices offered were reasonable and attractive, they made a lot of sense. They might have launched his ministry with great fanfare, and they surely would have made a difference. But they also came with a cost to who he was as God’s child and to the shape his ministry would take.

Afterwards, one of you was quick to observe that the choices Jesus made in his ministry were much less reasonable—his was a different and difficult path. The same is true for those who choose to be his disciples. The cost of discipleship we call it. To follow Jesus is to be in the world in a way that is distinctive and sometimes at odds with what seems reasonable and prudent. The ancient season of Lent is a time when our attention is turned toward the choices we make that shape our identity. Lent calls us to a mindfulness about how we live in the world that can sometimes make us uncomfortable. That alone is countercultural.

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Ours is a culture that constantly tells us that the good life is about driving the right car (usually at high rates of speed on a curving costal highway), smelling good and looking good (even while sitting on a horse), feeling good (because we have asked our doctor about the latest and greatest pill), and accessing it all with our great credit (which we can monitor with a free report provided we sign up for the plan at only \$unreadable in small print per month). The good life is our entitlement. To question that is an act of resistance.

Which is not to say that the way of Jesus is grim or joyless. The gospels reveal that he was enough of a party animal that his critics labeled him a glutton and a drunkard. So too, our decision to be part of the Jesus community offers its share of good things.

A pastor friend of mine says that one of the questions she likes to ask people is “What does it cost you to skip church?” All of us (even pastors) can name what it costs us to attend church—a quiet morning with the paper, *Meet the Press*, brunch at our favorite coffee shop—any number of things that we might miss out on or give up. But what does it cost you to skip church?

These are a few of my random answers. It costs me my weekly experience of live music. The church is one of the last places you can count on live music week in and week out. Some of it is created by adult humans singing together—an even rarer thing. It costs me the experience of creativity not for art’s sake but for the sake of saying thanks to the One who made us co-creators.

It costs me the experience of alternative community—a shared experience with people like me and people very unlike me who trust that our being together matters. It costs me the wisdom and support of that community. It costs me the encounter with the hard edges of the gospel within a group of people who will both challenge my dishonesty about and support my struggle with that gospel. It costs me an experience in which I am less important than we. It costs me that weekly immersion in disciplines like reverence, compassion, and resistance. I’m running out of space. What does it cost you to skip church?

Grace & Peace,

Sharing and Caring

Prayers and Concerns

Please call the church office for further information.

Helping

- **Need a ride to church?** Contact one of our transportation volunteers: Jim & Carolyn Hodgson, Bill Pallett, 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.



Introducing Julie Rogers Our New Administrative Assistant

Those calling the church office will be greeted by a new voice beginning March 1st. We welcome Julie Rogers who has accepted the position of Administrative Assistant at First Congregational United Church of Christ. Julie is a long time Manhattan resident, and we welcome her to our church community. More information about Julie will be posted on the staff section of our website soon.



North Central Association UCC Spring Meeting April 17

The Spring Meeting of the North Central Association of the Kansas-Oklahoma Conference United Church of Christ will be held April 17, 2010 at White Memorial Camp. Lunch cost and registration details are to be announced. The morning will be an opportunity to connect with other area UCC churches and to do the business of the Association. You are also invited to enjoy the Open House planned for that day at the camp from 1:00 to 5:00 P.M.

Leona Garrison,
North Central Association Registrar

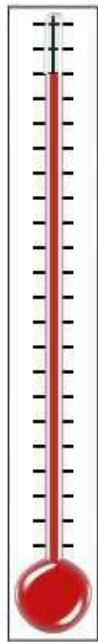


Ecumenical Lenten Worship & Luncheons

The Manhattan Ministerial Association is sponsoring Community Lenten worship services at **Noon on Wednesdays** during Lent. Each service lasts about one half hour and is followed by a simple lunch. These events will be held at First Christian Church,

Courthouse Plaza. Come as you are to share in worship and fellowship.

\$150,000
\$139,629



Stewardship Update Closing the Gap

The Stewardship Committee reminds you that we need your help. We are continuing to narrow the gap, but we have not yet fully funded our projected 2010 budget. Just over \$10,000 more in financial commitments for 2010 would take us to our pledged income goal of \$150,000.

If you feel you can increase your monthly pledge to the church, you can call our Financial Secretary, Joy Schell, at 539-6540. The more of us who can help out, the more quickly we can meet all the needs of our church budget and fully support the mission of the Body of Christ at First Congregational United Church of Christ, Manhattan.

Women of the Church

Lunch Bunch Join the Women of the Church for Lunch Bunch on Wednesday, March 3 at HuHot Mongolian Grill in Manhattan Town Center. It's not for women only—everyone is welcome to join us for lunch at 11:30 A.M.

Mission and Outreach



OGHS

Let's
CHANGE
the
World

During the season of Lent, you are invited to bring all of your loose change from home and put it in the offering plate. (The plates contain metal pie pans which makes for joyful noise and lots of smiles!) Our **One Great Hour of Sharing Offering** will be taken on Palm Sunday this year—watch for an envelope in the next newsletter. All of the loose change that is put in the offering plate during Lent will be added to our One Great Hour of Sharing Offering. So unburden yourself, make your load lighter, and let's change the world with our change.

—The Board of Mission and Outreach

Spring Ahead

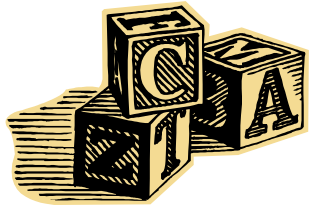
Sunday, March 14, 2010

Daylight Savings Time Begins.

Be sure to set your clock ahead one hour on Saturday night.



Christian Education



Nursery Toy Drive We would like to replace some of the old and worn toys with newer toys for the nursery kids. Any kind of children's toys for ages infant to 3 years are welcome! Toys need not be new, but should be in good

conditions. Donations can be delivered to the office and would be very much appreciated.

Study & Discussion Opportunities for Adults

That Strange Book—

a Bible Study on the Book of Revelation

Thursday Evening Bible Study is studying that mysterious book at the end of the Bible—Revelation. Join us Thursdays at 5:30 P.M. in Blachly Hall as we explore this often misunderstood yet influential book that is not like any other in the New Testament. Feel free to bring a brown bag supper or snacks. Child care is available in the Nursery. We conclude by 6:45 P.M. so that you can attend the Taizé worship service if you wish.

Exploring Christian Spiritualities

An Adult Forum series during Lent

"I'm spiritual but not religious," seems to be one of the mantras of our time. But what do we mean by "spirituality?" Spirituality is nothing new—most would say that it's a part of being human. We will attempt to scratch the surface a bit, looking at some "ways" of spirituality. .

An Introduction to Spirituality. What is spirituality? What are some of the major spiritual movements? What is the relationship between spirituality and religion? What makes a spirituality "Christian?"

The Mystical Way. Mystics have always been with us, but how do we understand mysticism? Who are they? We will look in particular at Julian of Norwich and her famous text "Showings."

The Way of Everyday Action. How is spirituality a part of everyday life? How can we live in more focused ways, aware of God's activity in our lives? We will talk a bit about St. Ignatius Loyola and his "Spiritual Exercises."

The Way of Imagination. Creativity and spirituality seem to go hand in hand for many. Why is that? What sorts of creativity seem especially spiritual. In this session, we will look at some of the poetry of George Herbert.

The Way of Social Engagement. Is Liberation Theology, a 20th century development, a spirituality? We will look at a few of the pioneering Liberation theologians.

Worship & Church Volunteers

February 28, 2010

Greeters..... Mary Ellen Barkley, *Volunteer Needed*
Scripture Reader..... Chantel Vogel
Word for Children... Tracey Weston
Fellowship Hour..... *Volunteer Needed*
Snow Removal..... Dale Stearns (*through March 6*)

March 7, 2010

Greeters..... *Volunteers Needed*
Scripture Reader..... Angela Hubler
Word for Children... Sue Gerth
Fellowship Hour..... *Volunteer Needed*
Snow Removal..... Craig Weston (*through March 13*)

March 14, 2010

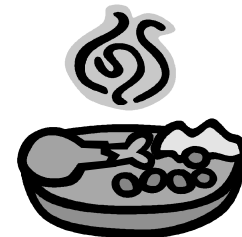
Greeters..... Donna Keyser, *Volunteer Needed*
Scripture Reader..... Vickie Korroch
Word for Children... Jim Ahrens
Fellowship Hour..... *Volunteer Needed*
Snow Removal..... Jim Ahrens (*through March 20*)

March 21, 2010

Greeters..... Anne & Dale Stearns
Scripture Reader..... Donna Keyser
Word for Children... Jim Mock
Fellowship Hour..... *Volunteer Needed*
Snow Removal..... William Knicklebine (*through March 27*)

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.



February 28, 2010

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

March 7, 2010

Chief Cook..... Karen Franz
Volunteers..... Manhattan Mennonite Church,
Ann Gleason, Caren Knicklebine
Dessert..... Rebecca Tovar

March 14, 2010

Chief Cook..... *To be announced*
Volunteers..... Ann Gleason, *To be announced*
Dessert..... Wade Honey

March 21, 2010

Chief Cook..... Andy Barkley
Volunteers..... Mary Ellen Barkley, Ann Gleason,
Caren Knicklebine
Dessert..... *To be announced*

Community News

Walk Kansas March 7 through May 1

Walk Kansas is an 8-week wellness program that encourages individuals to increase their physical activity and improve their eating habits with support from team members. Teams of six work together to compile minutes equivalent to walking across Kansas—423 miles.

Teams registration is \$30.00 and is due by March 5, 2010. Registration includes program materials and weekly newsletters offering nutrition, health and physical activity tips plus recipes. Pick up a Captain's Packet at the Riley County Extension Office or go to www.riley.ksu.edu.

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

700 Poyntz Avenue
Manhattan, KS 66502
(785) 537-7006
uccmanhattan.org



Sunday

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

Saturday

March 2010



	1	2	3 11:30 Lunch Bunch 12:00 Lenten Lunch & Worship 7:00 Board Meetings	4 5:30 Bible Study 7:00 Taizé	5 9:00 Crisis Center Meeting 6:00 Storytime	6
7 Lent III 8:30 Choir Rehearsal 9:30 Church School 10:45 Worship & Communion Fill the Breadbasket 12:00 Fellowship Hour 5:15 Second Helping	8 3:00 AAUW Dinner Prep	9	10 12:00 Lenten Lunch & Worship 6:00 Vitality Team 7:00 Cabinet	11 5:30 Bible Study 7:00 Taizé	12 9:00 Crisis Center Meeting 6:00 Storytime	13 10:00 N.C. Assn. Committee on Ministry
14 Lent IV Daylight Time 8:30 Choir Rehearsal 9:30 Church School 10:45 Worship 12:00 Fellowship Hour 5:15 Second Helping	15 12:00 Newsletter Deadline	16 10:00 N.C. Assn. Clergy 7:00 PFLAG	17 12:00 Lenten Lunch & Worship	18 5:30 Bible Study 7:00 Taizé	19 9:00 Crisis Center Meeting 6:00 Storytime	20
21 Lent V 8:30 Choir Rehearsal 9:30 Church School 10:45 Worship 12:00 Fellowship Hour 5:15 Second Helping	22	23	24 12:00 Lenten Lunch & Worship	25 5:30 Bible Study 7:00 Taizé	26 9:00 Crisis Center Meeting 6:00 Storytime	27
28 Palm-Passion Sunday 8:30 Choir Rehearsal 9:30 Church School 10:45 Worship—OGHS 12:00 Fellowship Hour 5:15 Second Helping	29 12:00 Newsletter Deadline	30	31			

March Birthdays

1	Carson Schuette	19	Sue Zschoche
3	Rob Hayes	20	Joy Schell
4	Wade Honey	21	Bill Pugh
10	Jack Dayton	23	Kimberly Mankin
11	Chris Hogan	28	Sherwood Bishop
14	Joan McCrann	29	Marian Fuller
14	Cameron Tross		
15	Neil Dayton		
16	Macy Vogel		
17	Joshua Manning		

March Anniversaries

2	Pat & Paula Caffey
25	Tom & Tammi Hawk

March 2010 Dates to Remember

March 3	11:30	Lunch Bunch
	12:00	Lenten Lunch & Worship
	7:00	Board Meetings
March 7		Fill the Breadbasket
March 10	12:00	Lenten Lunch & Worship
March 14		<i>Daylight Savings Begins</i> set clocks ahead Saturday night
March 15	12:00	Newsletter Deadline
March 17	12:00	Lenten Lunch & Worship
March 24	12:00	Lenten Lunch & Worship
	6:00	Vitality Team Meeting
	7:00	Cabinet Meeting
March 28		Palm-Passion Sunday One Great Hour of Sharing
March 29	12:00	Newsletter Deadline