



FIRST CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST NEWSLETTER

Volume 53 Number 13

July 15, 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

The times they are a changing

Long, long ago in a land far, far away—well to be honest it was 1982 in Connecticut—I learned the pure delight of spending the entire afternoon reading the Sunday paper. It was the *New York Times*, not like I could get it in Kansas, but the real thing: Metro section. Cheap and thick. No color. Wordy headlines. Hundred of pages.

It had started, the Sunday *Times that is*, in 1861 with a demand for more immediate news—folks were not willing to wait from Saturday until Monday for news of the war. But these days it's not what it used to be. It's smaller, a lot thinner, and in color. Some say it's doomed; print journalism is a dinosaur, they say. Costs are skyrocketing beyond the demand.

If the Grey Lady is struggling, it should come as no surprise that *United Church News* will publish its final print edition in September, a victim of rising printing and postage costs, as well as the huge cultural changes that have come [continued page 2]

➔ ➔ ➔ ➔ Inside this Newsletter ← ← ← ←

Sharing & Caring.....3	Worship Volunteers..... 5
News & Information4-6	The Second Helping 6
Relay for Life..... 4	Community News..... 7

with the information age. I will miss it. Not just because I am an old curmudgeon who will always prefer the sensory input of paper and ink over a Kindle, but because print journalism has been such a part of the UCC's DNA. Religious journalism in the USA is generally traced back to the beginning of the 19th century. Who was first is disputed, but always cited is Elias Smith who began publishing the *Herald of Gospel Liberty* in 1808. Smith was a part of the free Christian churches in New England—ancestors of both the “Christian” half of the Congregational Christian Churches that would become part of the UCC, and the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). If you wander back through the family and journalistic tree, you will find that the *Herald* is an ancestor of *United Church News*. 201 years of religious journalism.

In place of *United Church News* there is now an expanded news portal at ucc.org and a weekly *Keeping You Posted* e-zine that launched last fall and now has 52,000 readers. There is a new social networking community called “MyUCC,” and plans are underway for a semi-annual print magazine to be made available on a subscription basis.

The *K-O Focus* will also become an e-zine, and to that end, those of you who have shared an e-mail address with the church office will begin to receive *K-O Focus* in that new format in coming months. We will also make print copies available through the church office. We will do our best to keep you updated on this transition via this Newsletter, which for now continues in its dinosaur ways. Well, not completely—you can read this newsletter online by going to uccmanhattan.org and clicking on the newsletter link. For those of you out outside of Manhattan, the news will be a bit more fresh than it is when delivered by the bulk mail turtle.

Now, if I could only learn how to program my new TV remote before TV is obsolete...

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, Mike & Martha Miller, or Jeff Keller.
- **During Pastor Kent's leave** for continuing education and vacation, please call the church office or one of the Deacons in the case of an emergency or if a need for pastoral care arises. Kent will be out of the office July 23 through August 20.

Kudos

- Congratulations to Eli Logan for being recognized in the Manhattan Mercury for receiving the Robert C. Byrd Honors Scholarship and the Kansas State University's Civic Leadership Scholarship.
- Congratulations to Susan Allen who has received the Susan M. Scott Community Leadership Award from K-State's School of Leadership Studies.

E-MAIL PRAYER CHAIN

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



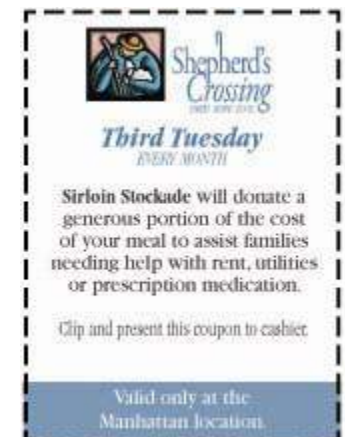
Relay for Life

Once again several members of our church will be participating in the American Cancer Society's Relay for Life. It will be Friday, July 31, in Memorial Stadium. The relay begins at 7:00 P.M. when the cancer survivors do a lap and continues until 7:00 A.M. All cancer survivors are invited to participate in the initial lap. Those raising funds from our church include Ann Gleason and Bill & Linda Richter. If you wish to help us raise money for research, prevention, and assistance to those in treatment, please give one of us a check made out to the American Cancer Society. Each \$10.00 donation entitles the donor to a named luminary lit in memory or in honor of someone who has had cancer. At 10:00 P.M. all luminaries will be lit and the names read. I encourage anyone to attend this moving ceremony.

Thanks so much, *Linda Richter*

Third Tuesday--July 21

A tasty way to support Shepherd's Crossing



Worship & Church Volunteers

July 19, 2009

Flowers.....*Volunteer Needed*
Greeters.....Judy Willingham, *Volunteer Needed*
Scripture Reader.....Marilyn Mock
Word for Children ...Atina Hanna
Word in Music.....Mandy Strawn & Anabelle Malcolm
Fellowship Hour.....Al & Sue Gerth
Lawn Mowing.....Al Cochran (*through July 25*)

July 26, 2009

Flowers.....*Volunteer Needed*
Greeters.....Judy Ahrens, *Volunteer Needed*
Scripture Reader.....Gretchen Lewis
Word for Children ...Jean Hill
Word in Music.....
Fellowship Hour.....Angela Hubler
Lawn Mowing.....Jim Ahrens (*through August 1*)

August 2, 2009

Flowers.....*Volunteer Needed*
Greeters.....*Volunteers Needed*
Scripture Reader.....*Volunteer Needed*
Word for Children ...Victor Force
Word in Music.....Tyler Cochran
Fellowship Hour.....*Volunteer Needed*
Lawn Mowing.....Donna Keyser (*through August 8*)

Sunday Flowers... Please contact Martha Miller or Chasity in the church office 537-7006 to provide flowers for the Sundays in July, August and September. Flowers from your garden would be wonderful!

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.



July 19, 2009

Chief Cook.....Brent Maner
Volunteers.....Ann Gleason, *Volunteer Needed*
Dessert.....*Volunteer Needed*

July 26, 2009

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

August 2, 2009

Chief Cook.....*Volunteer Needed*
Volunteers.....Ann Gleason, *Volunteer Needed*
Dessert.....*Volunteer Needed*

From the Financial Secretary —

Financial Statements The Second quarter financial statements are now being distributed. They show weekly details for this quarter and summary of total giving for the year. Please review for accuracy and contact the church office if you have any questions.

Community News

Flint Hills PFLAG Honored

Flint Hills PFLAG received the Outstanding Organization GALA Award at the Wichita Pride Celebration on June 28. Joy Foy and Mary Ray were present to accept the award on behalf of the Flint Hills PFLAG chapter.

Flint Hills PFLAG was incorporated in September 2004, with four families working to get the chapter organized. The chapter emphasizes advocacy and education in its public meetings, seeking to be an agent of change in the community. It also sponsors a coffee group to provide a more private support opportunity for families not ready to be out publicly.

Flint Hills PFLAG meets regularly at First Congregational UCC, Manhattan.

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UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

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Medicare Volunteer Training

Senior Health Insurance Counseling for Kansas (SHICK) is a free program through which community volunteers answer people's questions about Medicare and other health insurance issues. SHICK volunteer counselors provide free, unbiased and confidential assistance to beneficiaries, their caregivers and other who have questions about Medicare. New counselors must attend training on the three following days: August 13, 14, and 25. Training for all three days will be 8:30 A.M. to 4:30 P.M. at 401 Houston St. in Manhattan. Please pre-register for SHICK training by July 30. Call 776-9294 or 1-800-432-2703 for further information.