



“I am the Good Shepherd. I know my sheep and my sheep know me,”

APRIL 21, 2024, AT 10:45 A.M.

Welcome! If you are worshiping with us for the first time, we hope that you will find God's presence among us. Your presence with us enriches our vision of the Body of Christ, and we give thanks that you have joined us today. We encourage you to sign in using our online connect card at uccmanhattan.org/online. If you're worshiping with us in the sanctuary you can also sign in at either door, if you'd rather. Immediately following worship, we hope you'll join us for conversation or just stay put in the Zoom room if you're worshiping online. We look forward to greeting you there. If you have questions, please ask.

If you need accommodations, please let one of the ushers know. Hearing assist devices, wheelchairs, and walkers are available. The elevator provides access to all three floors of the building. Restrooms are located on each floor. Our lower level has wheelchair accessible, all-gender restrooms. Diaper changing stations are located in both restrooms on the main floor.

Children are welcome in worship (and we know they may need to wiggle!). Please reach out to Brandy McDonald (brandy@uccmanhattan.org) if you have questions about children's ministries. You may visit our website for information about Sunday School for children and adults during the school year.

WiFi password for FCUCC guest:

YouAreLoved

Our service is recorded so we can share it with those who may have missed worship today. If you are present in the sanctuary, you may be included in this recording. Please contact one of the pastors for more information.

---- Assisting in Today's Worship ----

Sanctuary Greeter: Lisa Tatonetti
Fellowship Host: Greg Eiselein
Tech Team: Anne Fredrickson, Craig Weston

Word for Children: Brandy McDonald
Reading Scripture: Judy Willingham
Zoom Sharer: TBA

WELCOME

CENTERING MUSIC

“Help Me”

Alicia Santee-Davis, piano
Joni Mitchell

CALLED INTO GOD'S PRESENCE

One: Awaken from your slumber,
and bring your fears and anxieties
into the presence of the Love.

Many: **Hear the call of our Shepherd,
and allow our faithful guide
to lead from selfish ambition
to the feast of grace.**

One: May the light of Christ shine into the shadows of our lives
and restore us.

Adapted from Rev. MaryAnn Rennie

✦ **HYMN 12** (*The New Century Hymnal located in pew backs.*)

“I Sing the Mighty Power of God”

Ellacombe

✦ *Indicates all who are able, please stand.*

✦ **AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

A New Creed #887

One: We are not alone, we live in God’s world.

Many: **We believe in God:
who has created and is creating,
who has come in Jesus,
the Word made flesh,
to reconcile and make new,
who works in us and others by the Spirit.
We trust in God.**

**We are called to be the Church:
to celebrate God’s presence,
to love and serve others,
to seek justice and resist evil.
to proclaim Jesus,**

crucified and risen,
our judge and our hope.
In life, in death, in life beyond death,
God is with us.
We are not alone. Thanks be to God.

United Church of Canada 1980

✦ **EXCHANGING THE PEACE**

One: The peace of Christ be with you.

Many: **And also with you.**

As a sign of our reconciliation, please greet those around you with words such as: "Peace be with you. / And also with you." If you are worshiping online, you can use the chat feature in Zoom. Please be mindful of other people's preferences about physical contact. If you prefer not to shake hands, you can let others around you know by pressing your palms together in front of your heart (as if in prayer).

✦ **ACT OF PRAISE**

(all join in singing Hymn #236)

"Halleluja"

Halle, halle, halleluja.

Halle, halle, halleluja.

Halle, halle, halleluja.

Halle, halle, halleluja.

☪ LISTENING

for our Still-speaking God

WORD FOR CHILDREN

Brandy McDonald

Children ages 3-1st grade are welcome to attend Kids Worship after the Word for Children. Children are walked up by staff/volunteer.

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Judy Willingham

Psalm 23 *(Page 633 in The New Century Hymnal read responsively; all join in singing the refrain as indicated by the symbol R.)*

John 10:11-18 *(Second Testament page 98 in the pew Bible)*

SERMON

Rev. Caela Simmons Wood

"Organic Love"

OFFERTORY SENTENCE

Prefer to make an electronic contribution? Scan the QR Code at right with the camera on your smartphone to be taken directly to our donate page or visit uccmanhattan.org/giving to learn how to set up automatic giving. Thank you for being a part of our ministry.

**OFFERTORY**

“Ye Followers of the Lamb”

Choir
Edwin Ferguson

✦ DOXOLOGY

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God all creatures here below;
Praise God above, ye heav’nly host:
Creator, Christ and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

*You are invited to type your prayers into the chat.
We respond: Merciful God....**hear our prayer.***

PRAYER OF JESUS *(said in unison)*

You are invited to use whatever name for God you find most meaningful (Mother, Father, Creator, God, Friend, Holy One, etc.). Together, our names for God will create a beautiful chorus reaching out to the Holy.

**Mother of us all,
who dwells within and beyond,
Sacred is your name.
May your holy vision for collective flourishing
come to fruition among us.
May your dreams of justice, love, compassion, and connection be
enfleshed on earth.
Provide us today with what we need to be nourished in body, soul,
and heart.
Forgive us for the harm we cause as we seek to forgive those who
have harmed us.
Lead us away from everything that destroys and liberate us from
the hands of evil.
For you are the ultimate source of hope.**

Your power-with exceeds all power-over.
Your presence incites eternal wonder.
All praise to you, our comfort and strength.
Amen.

This version of the prayer is by Rev. M Jade Kaiser, enflashed.

GOING FORTH *to be messengers of good news*

✦ **HYMN 247** (*The New Century Hymnal located in pew backs.*)

"My Shepherd is the Living God"

Consolation

**SHARING OPPORTUNITIES TO LOVE UNCONDITIONALLY.
CHALLENGE SPIRITUALLY. MINISTER FERVENTLY.**

New to First Congregational? We'd love to meet you. Use the QR code at right to complete a Connect Card.



✦ **CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

✦ **CONGREGATIONAL CHORAL BENEDICTION**

"Alleluia"

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia,
al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia,
al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. *To repeat* *Last time* lu - ia.

Music: Jerry Sinclair, © 1972, Manna Music, Inc.; arr. by Betty Pulkingham

POSTLUDE

"Tarantella, Op. 102 No. 3"

Felix Mendelssohn

THIS WEEK AT A GLANCE

THIS SUNDAY, APRIL 21

- 8:30 a.m. Choir Practice
- 9:30 a.m. Sunday School
Confirmation Class #8
- 10:45 a.m. Service of the Word
- 12:00 noon Fellowship Hour
- 6:00 p.m. Second Helping

MONDAY, APRIL 22

- 5:30 p.m. UFM Yoga Class, Blachly Room

TUESDAY, APRIL 23

- 11:30 a.m. Book Study, Zoom
- 6:30 p.m. Riley County Historical Society lecture, Pioneer/Blachly

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 24

- 12:00 p.m. MOA Narcotics Anonymous meeting, Andover Hall
- 7:00 p.m. Turning Point AA meeting, Blachly Room

THURSDAY, APRIL 25

- 7:00 p.m. Taizé Worship, Pioneer Hall
- 7:30 p.m. MOA Narcotics Anonymous meeting, Andover Hall

FRIDAY, APRIL 26

- 7:30 p.m. MOA Narcotics Anonymous meeting, Andover Hall

NEXT SUNDAY, APRIL 28

- 8:30 a.m. Choir Practice
- 9:30 a.m. Sunday School
- 10:45 a.m. Service of the Word
- 12:00 noon Fellowship Hour
- 6:00 p.m. Second Helping



*Join us on Facebook at
[facebook.com/uccmanhattanks](https://www.facebook.com/uccmanhattanks)*

Permission to print the music in this service obtained from One License with license #A-710121.

Ecumenical Campus Ministry at Kansas State University is a cooperative ministry supported by the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), the United Church of Christ, and the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). For more information on ECM's activities and schedules, please visit us on Facebook (ECM at K-State) or at www.ksu.edu/ecm



Volunteers for Sunday, April 28

Greeter: Brent Maner

Reading Scripture: Youth

Word for Children: Pastor Caela

Fellowship Host: Bethany Stock

Zoom Screen Sharer: _____ *needed*

Tech Team: Janet George, Carol Sevin

Visit
uccmanhattan.org/sign-ups
to volunteer.

Generosity Spotlight – This week we give thanks for...

our Board of Facilities and their supporters. We know that the church isn't a building or a steeple (it's the people!) but people also need a place to gather and serve and learn and grow and worship and laugh together. Our beautiful historic building provides all of this and more. We are so grateful for those who change lightbulbs, interface with local service and repair professionals, and carefully pay attention to every nook and cranny of our building and property.

Thank you for Being the Church!

Sabbatical Update— Pastor Caela will be on sabbatical from May 1 through August 17. If you did not receive a special mailing from the church office with details about coverage during Caela's sabbath, please contact the church office to let us know you need a copy.

First Congregational UCC, Manhattan—an Open and Affirming Congregation

In the spirit of love, openness, and inclusiveness we welcome persons of every race, culture, nationality, age, family configuration, gender, gender expression, sexual orientation, physical or mental ability, and socio-economic status to participate fully in all aspects of our church's life and ministry. *—from Open and Affirming Statement adopted May 11, 2003*

The Mission of First Congregational United Church of Christ is

- To love and accept others unconditionally as God loves and accepts us, and by example, to encourage others to do the same.
- To challenge ourselves to grow spiritually through worship, education, nurture, reflection, discussion, fellowship, and outreach.
- To minister to others locally, nationally, and globally with the same fervor as we minister to ourselves, through the sharing of our talents, gifts, and resources.

We hold ourselves accountable before God for this mission statement.

A Place for You – "No matter who you are, or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here." At some point in your journey, you may discover that you are feeling a pull to deepen your commitment to our faith community. You may be wondering, "Hey, how do I become a member of this congregation?"

If you're feeling a tug to consider membership, we'd love to explore that with you. We anticipate welcoming new members on Sunday, May 19 (but can also work around your schedule). You can reach out directly to the church office to express your interest. Learn more about what membership means on our website: <http://www.uccmanhattan.org/become-a-member.html>

Confirmation Celebration: Your Help Needed! – On April 28th we will be confirming several youth who have participated in our year-long confirmation class. We can't wait! The youth will be leading worship that day and the Board of Christian Education will host a special fellowship hour. We hope you'll be able to join us.

We will be presenting each confirmand with a student Bible and WE NEED YOUR HELP! You are invited to write down a note about a favorite Bible story or passage on a Post It note for each Bible. You can make 9 copies of the same note or pick a different passage for each confirmand. If handwriting isn't your thing, you can also print 9 copies of your note on small slips of paper.

At fellowship hour that day we'll have you stick your note in each confirmand's Bible. This will give them a jumping-off point for exploring their new Bible as they are surrounded by our love and care at this stage of their faith journey.

You can bring your notes with you on April 28th OR we will have some blank Post Its available at fellowship that day if you'd like to write them there. The photo shows a sample of what we're inviting you to do, but if you have any questions, please reach out to Pastor Caela. If you cannot be at worship on April 28th, you can mail your Post It notes to the office ahead of time and we can place them in the confirmands' Bibles for you!



TAKE TIME FOR TAIZÉ

Join us on the third Thursday of the month at 7:00 p.m. for Taizé Worship. Taizé is a 30 minute service of singing, scripture, prayer and silence based on the pattern of worship in use at the ecumenical community at Taizé, France.

Stay Green! – We recently learned that churches will no longer be included in the Grow Green fundraising event sponsored by the Greater Manhattan Community Foundation. This event, which takes place each year in April, had become a major source of support for our Church, as gifts totaling over \$20,000 were given in both 2023 and 2022. We are so grateful for the many donors who have given to the Church and for the matching donation that was made to our account at GMCF.

We encourage everyone to donate to the many great community agencies that are still part of Grow Green, and we hope you will continue to support First Congregational by making a gift directly to the Church in April. This is so important because we adopted a budget for 2024 that anticipated \$15,000 in support generated by the Grow Green campaign. You can designate your gift by noting “Stay Green” in the memo line of your check or payment.

If you have any questions, you can reach out to Brent Maner, Treasurer, or Rick Doll, Millie Schroeder, or Susanne Gilmore as members of the Gifts, Endowments, and Investments Committee.

Second Helping Volunteers – Wondering how you can be a part of Second Helping?

You can:

- *Volunteer to be a church host (training provided)
- *Volunteer to cook or be part of the kitchen crew (training provided)..
- *Sign up to provide dessert for 35-40 on Sunday evening.
- *Give a cash donation.
- *Include our guests and volunteers in your prayers.
- *Donate food: breakfast bars, packaged cookies (Oreos are very popular), instant oatmeal packet, packaged cheese crackers,
- *And our guests appreciate fresh produce, fruit and home-made goodies. Last year we put out donated pears, tomatoes and cucumbers for our guests to take when they picked up their sack lunches- a big hit!

Our guests are thankful for our efforts – some help out as we set up or clean up. Guests have handed us coins to help with expenses. Others play the piano for the group or help others with more iced tea or coffee. And we as individuals and as the church are blessed by our guests and our community of volunteers.... The mutuality of hospitality. For more information about how to help with any of these, please contact the church office (office@uccmanhattan.org) and we will help you get started!

RCHS program features history of First Congregational Church

Come explore local history as the Riley County Historical Society partners with Leo Schell and the First Congregational United Church of Christ for a presentation titled, "The Founding of the First Congregational Church: When, Where, Who, and Why." Held in the church's Pioneer Hall and Blachly Room at 700 Poyntz Ave., the program will be on Tuesday, April 23, at 6:30 p.m. The church was added to the National Register of Historic Places in 2008.

Leo Schell is a church member and emeritus faculty of the Kansas State University College of Education, as well as a lifetime member and supporter of the RCHS.

The First Congregational Church got its start in April 1855 in a tent near the vicinity of the present building. Construction on the original stone church began in 1858 [uccmanhattan.org]. A fun fact is that donors for construction included Owen Lovejoy, Stephen A. Douglas, and Abraham Lincoln. The first building is still in use as Pioneer Hall. This gives the church the distinction of being the oldest Protestant church building in Kansas still in use by its original congregation. Many additions have been made to the original building through the years.

This event is part of the RCHS speaker series and is free and open to the public.

Graduate Recognition – The Graduation season has arrived! We would like to recognize all our graduates. If you are graduating or have a family member who is soon to be a graduate: high school, college, technical college, graduate school, or any other, please let the office know soon so that we may properly honor our graduates. We would like to feature the accomplishments of our graduates in the June church newsletter. Drop off information at the church office or e-mail it to office@uccmanhattan.org.

Interfaith Earth Day Service – Need a moment to pause? Wish you could take a breath in the sunshine? Be a part of a shared interfaith service after some optional time outdoors on Sunday, April 21 at 4:30PM at the First Christian Church of Manhattan. Come early to play lawn games and other fun outdoor activities starting at 3PM. The service includes music, readings and reflections from the host communities. All are welcome to join!

Sponsoring communities: Manhattan Jewish Congregation, Ecumenical Campus Ministry at K-State, First Christian Church of Manhattan, Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Manhattan

This interfaith service is meant as a way to meet each other and create community together. There are many ways we are already interconnected, so let's come together (in person!) to acknowledge our interconnectedness.

April 21, 2024
Fourth Sunday of Easter
“Enfolded by Love”
John 10:11-18

Today is sometimes called Good Shepherd Sunday. In an increasingly urban culture, Shepherd can be a difficult metaphor to grasp. But, for some ministers, the metaphor of shepherd is very powerful, precisely because their work with livestock helps inform their ministry.

When she was asked what about ministry and shepherding crosses over, Catherine Foote (who describes herself as retired from ministry, but still shepherding) checked in from England, where she had traveled to participate in sheep dog trials.

“Ha!” she wrote, “Well, that would be just about everything! But I would say it has kept me aware of the everyday, ordinary diligence and joy of ministry. Sheep need to be fed, every day. Watered, every day. Tended, every day. And if I stop to notice, the work brings me joy, every day.”

Although she’s not a shepherd, Jackie Hibbard of Dancing Spirit Equine Facilitated Learning and Coaching and associate pastor at community UCC Boulder works extensively with animals and their connections to humans. She checked in about her work with horses. “Horses have helped me learn so much about myself and my leadership style. I could talk about this for paragraphs, but Two simple learnings are: they help me know when I’m not being clear and when I’m not fully present. I am a better minister and listener, because of what horses have taught me.”

Think about the relationships you have had with animals. How have those relationships deepened your relationship with God and with your sense of calling and vocation?



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The Rev. Caela Simmons Wood, Pastor
Paul Hunt, Moderator
Sue Zschoche, Pastoral Associate
Brandy McDonald, Director of Children’s Ministries
Sandy Nelson, Administrative Assistant

Gretchen Lewis, Music Coordinator
Mary Ellen Sutton, Organist
Alicia Santee-Davis, Pianist
Brent Maner, Treasurer
Jeff Keller, Financial Secretary
The Rev. Christian Watkins, Campus Pastor