



## SEPTEMBER 2018 “IN THE FIRST PLACE”

First Congregational United Church of Christ  
An Open & Affirming, Green Justice Congregation  
Mankato MN 56001  
(507) 387-6592

[www.mankatoucc.org](http://www.mankatoucc.org)

Check us out on Facebook!

### JOIN US ON SUNDAYS:

Worship 9:30 am      Children's Faith-Learning Community 9:45 am  
Nursery available      Fellowship following Worship

### September 2018 Worship Highlights And Common Lectionary Readings

- \* **September 2** *Twenty-second Sunday in Ordinary Time*  
*Guest Musicians: Mark W Strings*  
Solomon 2:8-13; Psalm 45:1-2, 6-9 or Deuteronomy 4:1-2, 6-9; Psalm 15;  
James 1:17-27; Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23
- \* **September 9** *Twenty-third Sunday in Ordinary Time*  
*On this day of re-connecting we'll share Communion and bless our beginning again!*  
Proverbs 22:1-2, 8-9, 22-23; Psalm 125 or Isaiah 35:4-7a; Psalm 146;  
James 2:1-10, (11-13), 14-17; Mark 7:24-37
- \* **September 16** *Twenty-fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time*  
Proverbs 1:20-33; Psalm 19 or Solomon 7:26-8:1 or Isaiah 50:4-91a;  
Psalm 116:1-9; James 3:1-12; Mark 8:27-38
- \* **September 23** *Twenty-fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time*  
*Musicians: Choir*  
Proverbs 31:10-31; Psalm 1 or Solomon 1:16-2:1, 12-22 or Jeremiah 11:18-20;  
Psalm 54; James 3:13-4:3, 7-8a; Mark 9:30-37
- \* **September 30** *Twenty-sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time*  
Ester 7:1-6, 9-10; 9:20-22; Psalm 124 or Numbers 11:4-6, 10-16, 24-29;  
Psalm 19:7-14; James 5:13-20; Mark 9:38-50

### **The Centering Strings:**

The Centering Strings will be getting together for rehearsals, and will be participating in worship this fall into winter. Anyone interested in joining is welcome! Please contact Diana S.

## ***Make A Joyful Noise!***

**ALL SINGERS ARE WELCOME!**

The **UCC Choir** is ready to sing again this fall and would love for you to be a part of the fun! All levels of talent and ability are welcome. All that is truly needed is a love of singing and a desire to raise your voice in praise! Don't worry if you can't commit to all dates. We can be very flexible and welcome you anytime you are able to participate.

**Please join us at our first fall rehearsal on Sunday, September 9th at 11am.**

Contact Angie B. with any questions.

**JOIN US ON SEPTEMBER 5TH, 5PM**

**OPENING POT-LUCK** that will kick off the season!

**September UCC Choir Schedule** (full schedule is available on the kiosk)

Wednesday 5th - 5pm **Pot Luck Fun**

Sunday 9th - 11am rehearsal

Sunday 16th - 11:15am rehearsal

Sunday 23rd - 9am rehearsal **Performance at service** 11 am rehearsal

## ***PRIDE FEST***

***Saturday, September 8th***

*Once again this September we'll be walking as a church in the **Pride Fest parade on Saturday morning at 11:30** (we'll gather at 11am), and again we'll be hosting a booth in Riverfront Park beginning at noon. Volunteer sign-up sheet is on the kiosk. Please contact Blake with questions about how to become involved with preparations!*

## ***PRIDE FEST MOVIE NIGHT***

***Sunday, September 9th***

*We'll gather **in Fellowship Hall at church at 5pm** for a light meal, view the documentary film directed by Justin Lee, "Through My Eyes", and engage in conversation after.*

*A bit about the film:*

*"Through My Eyes" provides an unflinchingly honest look at the role of today's young Christians in the gay debate: what they really think, how they perceive the church, and what they wish other Christians knew.*

*Over two dozen young Christians agreed to share their private feelings, struggles, and experiences on camera. All of them have a personal stake in the debate. And all of them hoped that their stories might make a difference.*

*Created for Christians by Christians, "Through My Eyes" tackles one of the most controversial topics today with compassion and sensitivity, shining new light on the debate for people on both sides. It's unlike anything you've seen before.*

*It's a powerful, eye-opening experience you won't soon forget.*

## **OPENING RECEPTION SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 16TH, 4-6PM**

### **Sierra Club LENS ON THE BORDER photography exhibit**

The 1st Congregational UCC Earthwise Work Group is excited to announce a photography exhibit seeking to portray the reality of the Mexico-U.S. border region.

The exhibit has been compiled by the Sierra Club's Borderlands Team in collaboration with photographers and artists from the U.S. and Mexico with a wide range of backgrounds. Exhibit curators called it an "act of resistance" designed to dispel the stereotypes, sensationalism, paranoia and xenophobia that plague mainstream representations of the border. In addition to the devastating impact on families, existing barriers and fencing are already disrupting the lives of wildlife along the border, including threatened or endangered species like bison and jaguar.

The exhibit has been shown in Tucson, where participants from our church's border trip saw it last November, as well as Mexico City, Washington, D.C. and other U.S. cities.

**A reception for members and the larger local community will be held on September 16th from 4-6 p.m. The exhibit will remain with us until October 12th.**

## **ARIZONA BORDER TRIP**

**Thursday, November 15th - Sunday, November 18th**

Once again this year, members of our church have the opportunity to travel to Tucson and Nogales Arizona to explore the impact of the border wall of life -- human and environmental. We'll meet up with members of other UCC churches (including members of Mayflower UCC in Minneapolis), and though our schedule of activities is not yet set, it is likely that we will spend some time in court (to witness Operation Streamline), gather at the wall with ranchers to hear about their experience, talk with those who are intimately engaged with the plight of immigrants crossing the desert on foot, and with those who know the experience first hand. A block of hotel rooms is being held for us (you can figure between \$35 and \$40 a night double occupancy) and soon we will be arranging air transportation.

If you are interested to know more, please contact Pastor Dana as soon as possible. In early September, we will gather to discuss the details!

## **ADULT FAITH FORMATION**

**BOOK/BIBLE STUDY returns!**

**Sundays 3:30-5**

(our ongoing gathering time may be adjusted according to the needs of participants)

**September 23rd, 30th**

**October 7th, 21st, 28th**

Join in a reading of Walter Brueggemann's **Interrupting Silence: God's Command to Speak Out.**

### **A few words from the introduction:**

Silence is a complex Matter. It can refer to awe before unutterable holiness, but it can also refer to coercion where some voices are silenced in the interest of control by dominant voices. It is the latter silence that is primarily the focus of the studies that follow...

### **From the table of contents:**

The Oppressed Break Silence  
Prophets Refuse to Be Silenced  
Silence Kills  
Jesus Rudely Interrupted  
Casting Out Silence  
The Crowd as Silencer  
Truth Speaks to Power  
The Church as a Silencing Institution

**If you would like a copy of the book please let Pastor Dana know by September 10th.** Details on the first readings will follow!

## **YOUTH FAITH FORMATION**

As August rolls on, plans are already in the works for this fall!

### **The Gathering: (7th grade)**

MEETS ONE WEDNESDAY EVENING EACH MONTH

6-7pm (usually the 2nd)

Our first class will be on Wednesday September 12th, and parents are asked to join in at 6:45 to go over expectations and schedules.

Our class will be made up of those who are in the **7th grade** and will serve as a pre-confirmation class where there will be a greater focus on exploring our stories and faith tradition and our questions.

In the fall, these youth will receive a Bible.

It's anticipated that The Gathering youth will also attend Synergy (usually the 4th Wednesday evening) and assume more of a leadership role. In addition, the youth will have opportunities to participate in Sunday worship leadership.

### **SYNERGY: (5th-7th grade)**

MEETS ONE WEDNESDAY EACH MONTH (usually the 4th)

6-7:15pm

Our first class will be on Wednesday September 26th, and parents are asked to join in at 7pm to go over expectations and schedules.

Synergy is for those in **5th-7th grade** and serves as an active faith learning community.

Service in our neighborhood and a deepening understanding of our Christian teachings will be our focus.

Also, the plan is to arrange a trip to the Global Market for World Communion Sunday, a synagogue and the Basilica of St Mary, perhaps a Buddhist temple-- making our own church calendar/holy days come more alive.

(Some of these activities will likely need to be on a day other than Wednesday.)

### **THE FAITH FORMING COMMUNITY: (4th grade)**

MEETS ONE WEDNESDAY EVENINGS EACH MONTH (usually the 3rd)

6-7:15pm

Our first class will be on Wednesday September 19th, and parents are asked to join in at 7pm to go over expectations and schedules.

Last church year there were several occasions for our third graders to get together to learn about communion and what Lent is about, and the plan is to do this on a regular basis beginning in September 2018. As **4th graders**, this will be a faith learning, community building and fun time together as we move through the church calendar together. **All 4th graders are welcome!**

**YOUTH SINGERS!** Angie, our choir director, will be reaching out to youth who would like to sing on particular Sundays and in special services.

Please let Pastor Dana know if you plan to join in!

[dana@mankatoucc.org](mailto:dana@mankatoucc.org) or text/call: 917-202-3738

Registration forms are available on the kiosk in the narthex.

### **SEPTEMBER YOUTH SCHEDULE**

On our first meeting some of these dates might change as we discuss what works best for everyone involved!

**THE GATHERING (7th graders)** Wednesday, 9/12, 6pm

**FAITH FORMING COMMUNITY (4th graders)** Wednesday, 9/19, 6pm

**SYNERGY (5th-7th graders)** Wednesday, 9/26, 6pm

- September 29, Saturday, SYNERGY Youth (5<sup>th</sup>-7<sup>th</sup> graders) trip to the Global Market

### **CHILDREN'S FAITH-LEARNING COMMUNITY on Sundays!**

**WELCOME! WELCOME BACK!**

It's almost time to begin this new church year of the **Children's Faith Learning Community**. **Rally Day / Communion Sunday will be September 9, 2018**. On this Sunday, children and parents are asked to come early (9:00 - 9:20 am) and join me at the CFLC Registration Table.

Each child will design their own name tag, and after registration, the children will gather as a group and enter worship together with me and Pastor Dana. As this is a Communion Sunday, children will remain in worship.

Teachers are in place to begin classes on Sunday, September 16. Classes are designed for children ages 3 through grade 6.

If you have any questions, please call or text Pat T, Christian Education Director.

**CALLING ALL ACOLYTES:** The children from the Children's Faith-Learning Community enjoy helping during worship. Families are signing up as Acolytes and helping prepare the congregation for worship by lighting the candles. If you would like a turn to help, please text/call Pat T. with a date that works for your family. Thank you.

## **MISSION MINISTRY**

**CHECK OUT THE BOARD IN THE NARTHEX FOR A MONTHLY PREVIEW OF THIS FALL'S EVENTS OFFERED BY OUR WORK GROUPS!**

**EARTHWISE, FAIR TRADE, IMMIGRANT WELCOMING-INTERFAITH**

### ***Neighbors in Need:***

The Neighbors in Need offering, which we will receive on October 7<sup>th</sup>, is a special mission offering of the UCC that supports ministries of Justice and Compassion throughout the US. One third of NIN funds support the Council for American Indian Ministry (CAIM). The remaining funds are used by UCC's Justice and Witness Ministries (JWM). You will receive a letter in the mail explaining how your dollars are used in this important mission.

## **CONGREGATIONAL LIFE**

***The Men's Group:* Saturday, September 8, 8:00 am at the WOW! Zone**

***The Women's Group:* Saturday, September 8, 9:00 am at the WOW! Zone**

### ***September "Dinner Out Gathering":***

**Saturday, September 15<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 pm, the Deacon Ministry Team will be hosting the first "Dinner Out" of the season.** A sign-up sheet has been posted on the kiosk. More information to follow...

## **HEALTH MINISTRIES**

### ***Blood Pressure Check:***

Blood pressure check will be on **Sunday, September 2<sup>nd</sup>**. The Parish Nurse will be in the church **Library** after worship service.

### ***Assistance Available:***

There are crutches, a walker and a wheel chair available for loan if someone has a need.

## **ALL IN THE CHURCH FAMILY:**

### ***Prayer Requests:***

We lift up to God's healing presence all those struggling in body, mind and spirit and pray for all caregivers and all those serving to bring peace and justice to our community, our nation and our world.

## **PASTORAL CONTACT:**

**Pastor Dana Mann can be reached at: [dana@mankatoucc.org](mailto:dana@mankatoucc.org)  
(507) 387-6592 ext.1 or her cell: 1-917-202-3738**

## **FROM THE OFFICE COORDINATOR:**

**Church Office Hours: Monday 10:30 am - noon & 1-3 pm  
Tuesday - Thursday 9:00 am - noon & 1-3 pm  
Friday 9:00 am - noon**



***Labor Day, Monday September 3<sup>rd</sup>, Church Office will be closed.***

**First Congregational United Church of Christ, 150 Stadium Court, Mankato, 56001**

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Web Page [www.mankatoucc.org](http://www.mankatoucc.org)

**Pastor:** *Rev. Dana J Mann* [dana@mankatoucc.org](mailto:dana@mankatoucc.org)

**Moderator:** *Silas D*

**Choir Director:** *Angie B-H*

**Organist:** *Diana S*

**Director of Christian Education:** *Pat T*

**Parish Nurse:** *Rochelle M*

**Office Coordinator:** *Diane B* [katoucc@mankatoucc.org](mailto:katoucc@mankatoucc.org)

**Financial Secretary:** *Donna S*

# September 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2 9:30 AM Worship (no communion), Special Music 10:30 AM Fellowship, Blood Pressure Check	3 Labor Day Church Office Closed	4 4:45 PM Worship Ministry Team	5 5:00 PM UCC Choir Potluck 7:00 PM Musicorum Rehearsal	6	7 5:00 PM Planning Group Mtg for Oct 14 Interfaith Gathering	8 8:00 AM Men's Gr @ WOW Zone 9:00 AM Women's Gr @ WOW Zone 12:00 PM -5:00 PM Pride Fest
9 <b>RALLY DAY</b> 9:30 AM Worship, Communion, Children's Faith Learning Community Registration 10:30 AM Fellowship 11:15 AM Choir Reh 5:00 PM Pride Fest Movie Night & Light Meal	10 5:15 PM Deacons Ministry Team Meeting	11	12 6:00 PM -7:15 PM The Gathering (7 gr)	13 3:00 PM MSU Poet Series 6:00 PM DV Quilters 6:00 PM Mission Ministry Team Meeting	14	15 5:30 PM Dinner Out Gathering, place TBA
16 9:30 AM Worship, Choir, Children's Faith Learning Community 10:30 AM Fellowship 11:15 AM Choir Reh 4:00 PM -6:00 PM Lens on the Border Exhibit & Reception	17	18 2:00 PM Parkinson's Support Group 5:30 PM Moms of Multiples 6:30 PM Trustee Board	19 6:00 PM -7:15 PM The Community (4th gr)	20 Last day to submit articles to the Church Office for October Newsletter	21	22
23 9 & 11 AM Choir Reh 9:30 AM Worship, Choir, Children's Faith Learning Community 10:30 AM Fellowship 3:30 PM -5:00 PM Book/Bible Study with Pastor Dana	24	25	26 6:00 PM -7:15 PM Synergy (5-7 gr)	27 6:00 PM Church Council Meeting	28	29 Global Mkt SYNERGY Youth (5-7 gr)
30 9:30 AM Worship, Children's Faith Learning Community, Mission Moment 10:30 AM Fellowship 11:00 AM Adult Ed 3:30 PM -5:00 PM Book/Bible Study with Pastor Dana						