
JANUARY 2019

“IN THE FIRST PLACE”

First Congregational United Church of Christ
An Open & Affirming, Green Justice Congregation
Mankato MN 56001

www.mankatoucc.org

Check us out on Facebook!

The Annual Congregational Meeting will be held in the Fellowship Hall on Sunday, January 27, 2019, immediately following our worship service. Please note... A complete Annual Report will be available to the congregation on Sunday, January 13, 2019.

JOIN US ON SUNDAYS:

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

JANUARY 2019 WORSHIP HIGHLIGHTS AND COMMON LECTIONARY READINGS

* **January 6** *Epiphany*

Choir

Communion

Isaiah 60:1-6; Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14; Ephesians 3:1-12; Matthew 2:1-12

* **January 13** *The Baptism of Christ*

Isaiah 43:1-7; Psalm 29; Acts 8:14-17; Luke 3:15-17, 21-22

* **January 20** *Second Sunday after the Epiphany*

Choir

Last November a group of us traveled to the border in Nogales, Arizona. This morning's worship will be based on our experience, and the stories of people we met along the way.

Isaiah 62; 1-5; Psalm 36:5-10; 1 Corinthians 12:1-11; John 2:1-11

* **January 27** *Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany*

On this day of our Annual Meeting, our worship will reflect on where we are and who we're being called to become.

Nehemiah 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10; Psalm 19; 1 Corinthians 12:12-31a; Luke 4:14-21

THE CENTERING STRINGS:

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

MAKE A JOYFUL NOISE!

ALL SINGERS ARE WELCOME! The **UCC Choir** 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. Contact Angie.

ADULT FAITH FORMATION BOOK STUDY CONTINUES...

Tuesday, January 8th, 2 pm

This will be our final gathering for sifting through Walter Brueggemann's, INTERRUPTING SILENCE: GOD'S COMMAND TO SPEAK OUT.

Stay tuned for our next book and meeting times!

YOUTH FAITH FORMATION

2019 WINTER/SPRING YOUTH SCHEDULE

THE GATHERING (7th grade)

Wednesdays 6-7pm

January 9th

March 13th

April 10th

May 8th

SYNERGY (5th -7th grade)

Wednesdays 6-7:15pm

January 23rd

February 27th

March 27th

April 24th

May 22nd

4TH GRADE COMMUNITY

Wednesdays 6-7:15pm

January 16th

March 20th

April 17th

May 15th

FOR ALL YOUTH:

- Saturday February 2nd: Trip to the Basilica (details to follow)
- Wednesday March 6th: 7pm Ash Wednesday Worship
- Thursday April 18th: 7pm Maundy Thursday Worship

PLEASE NOTE... there will be other trips this spring! Details to follow!

THE GATHERING AND SYNERGY YOUTH READERS

Please choose one or two of the dates below for your youth to read during worship. They will read either a very easy scripture, or the offertory invitation that I will write. I will get this to you the week before so it can be practiced. If you have concerns about reading, let me know!

Please let me know which one or two of these work (text or email Pastor Dana)

January 20th
January 27th
February 3rd
February 24th
March 3rd
March 10th

4th GRADE COMMUNITY USHER HELPERS:

Each youth will help before worship and during (for the offertory collection).

Please let me know which one or two of these work (text or email Pastor Dana)

January 20th
January 27th
February 3rd
February 24th
March 3rd
March 10th

CHILDREN'S FAITH-LEARNING COMMUNITY on Sundays!

January 6 - There is no Children's Faith Learning Community on Communion Sundays (which is usually the 1st Sunday of each month). All children are welcome to remain in worship following Children's Moment. Nursery Care is available for the very young (up to age 3).

At the entrance to the sanctuary there are canvas bags filled with children's activities related to communion. Please enjoy!

January 13, 20 & 27 - Children's Faith Learning Community

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 with a date that works for your family. Thank you.

MISSION MINISTRY

CHECK OUT THE BOARD IN THE NARTHEX FOR A MONTHLY PREVIEW OF EVENTS OFFERED BY OUR WORK GROUPS!

EARTHWISE, FAIR TRADE, IMMIGRANT WELCOMING-INTERFAITH

JUSTICE & WITNESS MINISTRIES

In January our mission focus is on **Justice & Witness Ministries** of the UCC, seeking a just, compassionate and peaceful world that honors all of God's creation.

The JWM invites members to support the "Peace Fund" through its annual campaign. These funds support state and local justice events and education.

The offering for this mission will be received on Sunday, January 20th.

NOTES OF THANKS...

- * Thank you to the **Salvation Army Bell Ringers** who participated on December 2nd. Donations collected fund those in need in our community.
- * Thanks to all who furnished and purchased food and craft items Sunday, December 16th, at our **Annual Bake & Craft Sale**. The money raised will be used for the future Guatemala Mission Trip.
- * The **Christmas Fund** offering will benefit our active, retired clergy and lay employees with their needs, throughout our UCC denomination. Thank you for your continued support.

S.S. RESOURCE CENTER OPPORTUNITY...

S.S. Resource Center, 1415 1st Ave. N. in Mankato, is newly opened to provide shelter and resources for homeless people every day in the afternoons. It is filling the gap between Salvation Army noon meal and the Rotating Shelter that opens at 7pm.

On Sundays, the shelter is at St. John's Episcopal Church from 1 to 7pm. In lieu of our providing the noon meal at the Salvation Army on Sundays, we have the opportunity to provide snacks for the homeless people on Sunday afternoons. The Salvation Army still has the noon meal, but these snacks would be in between meals. Light, healthy snacks for around 15 people would be any of the following: **Muffins, bread or bagels with cream cheese, peanut butter, butter or jelly, granola or other nutrition bars, fruits, raw veggies, cheese or meats, etc.**

There is a schedule you can sign-up on at the kiosk that will go through February. Two people can sign up for each Sunday. You can drop off these snacks at St. John's Episcopal Church at Broad and Warren Sunday after church. If you prefer you can contribute money.

CONGREGATIONAL LIFE

The Men's Group: Saturday, January 12, 8:00 am at the WOW! Zone

The Women's Group: Saturday, January 12, 9:00 am at the WOW! Zone

Dinner Out Gathering: Saturday, January 19, 5:30 pm, Patrick's on 3rd,
125 S. 3rd Street, St Peter.

Sign-up sheet is on the kiosk in the Narthex.

HEALTH MINISTRIES

If you would like your blood pressure checked, please just reach out to one of the team members and we're happy to check it for you.

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
(507) 387-6592 ext.1 or her cell: 1-917-202-373**

FROM THE OFFICE COORDINATOR:

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

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

Phone: 507/387-6592 E-mail katoucc@mankatoucc.org

Web Page www.mankatoucc.org

Pastor: *Rev. Dana J Mann* dana@mankatoucc.org

Moderator: *Silas*

Choir Director: *Angie*

Organist: *Diana*

Director of Christian Education: *Pat*

Parish Nurse: *Rochelle*

Office Coordinator: katoucc@mankatoucc.org

Financial Secretary: *Donna*

January 2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 New Year's Day Church Office Closed	2 6:00 PM Choir Rehearsal	3	4	5
6 9 & 11 AM Choir Rehearsal 9:30 AM Worship, Communion, Choir 10:30 AM Fellowship	7 5:30 PM Health Ministry Team 6:45 PM Stewardship Work Group Meeting	8 2:00 PM Book Study with Pastor Dana 4:00 PM Changing Banners, Take down Christmas Decorations & Worship Ministry Team Meeting	9 6:00 PM -7:00 PM The Gathering (7 gr)	10 6:00 PM DV Quilters 6:00 PM Mission Ministry Team 7:00 PM Border Team Meeting	11	12 8:00 AM Men's Gr @ WOW Zone 9:00 AM Women's Gr @ WOW Zone
13 9:30 AM Worship, SS, Mission Moment 10:30 AM Fellowship 11:00 AM Adult Ed	14	15 5:30 PM Moms of Multiples 6:30 PM Board of Trustees	16 6:00 PM Choir Rehearsal 6:00 PM -7:15 PM The Community (4 gr) 7:00 PM Musicorum Rehearsal	17	18	19 5:30 PM Dinner Out @ Patrick's on 3rd in St Peter
20 9:00 AM Choir Rehearsal 9:30 AM Border Trip Worship Service, SS, Justice & Witness Offering Rec 10:30 AM Fellowship 10:30 AM Choir Rehearsal 11:00 AM Border Trip Team Meeting	21 5:15 PM Deacon Ministry Team	22	23 6:00 PM -7:15 PM Synergy (5-7 gr) 7:00 PM Musicorum Rehearsal	24 6:00 PM Church Council Meeting	25	26
27 10:30 AM ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING 9:30 AM Worship, SS 10:30 AM Fellowship 6:30 PM -8:30 PM Private Event	28	29	30 6:00 PM Choir Rehearsal	31		