
MARCH 2019

“IN THE FIRST PLACE”

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

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

MARCH 2019 WORSHIP HIGHLIGHTS AND COMMON LECTIONARY TEXTS

- * **March 3rd** *Last Sunday after Epiphany*
Transfiguration Sunday

Musicians: Choir

Communion

After worship, come join with our Deacons to burn last year’s palm leaves into ashes for ASH WEDNESDAY WORSHIP.

Exodus 34:29-35; Psalm 99; 2 Corinthians 3:12-4:2; Luke 9:28-36, (37-43a)

MARCH 6TH ASH WEDNESDAY

Join us for a **SOUP AND BREAD SUPPER AT 6pm**, followed by a **WORSHIP SERVICE AT 7pm** that begins the season of Lent, the season of reflection.

Together we’ll remember the frailty of our lives, the love with which we’re made, and the journey that we’re on.

Each Sunday, as we journey through Lent, we’ll extinguish one of the candles at the front of our sanctuary. The light will slowly fade into darkness, for we are retelling the story of Jesus’ journey to Jerusalem. We do this not to be morbid, but because in the story of his death and resurrection, in the amazing transformation of death into life, God is revealed.

- * **March 10th** *1st Sunday of Lent*
Deuteronomy 26:1-11; Psalm 91:1-2, 9-16; Romans 10:8b-13; Luke 4:1-13
- * **March 17th** *2nd Sunday in Lent*
Musicians: Choir
Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18; Psalm 27; Philippians 3:17-4:1; Luke 13:31-35 or
Luke 9:28-36, (37-43a)

* **March 24th** *3rd Sunday in Lent*

Musicians: Centering Strings

Isaiah 55:1-9; Psalm 63:1-8; 1 Corinthians 10:1-13; Luke 13:1-9

* **March 31st** *4th Sunday in Lent*

Joshua 5:9-12; Psalm 32; 2 Corinthians 5:16-21; Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32

THE CENTERING STRINGS:

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

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.

SUNDAY MARCH 10TH, 10:45AM

Julio Zelaya from the Mankato ACLU (American Civil Liberties Union) will join us for conversation about his work with local justice issues – issues that face our immigrant population, LGBTQ youth in school, and racial discrimination.

YOUTH FAITH FORMATION...

OUTING FOR ALL YOUTH!!!

SATURDAY, MARCH 9TH we'll journey to Minneapolis to the Basilica of St. Mary's for a tour and a worship service, and of course eat along the way! Details to follow....

THE GATHERING (7th grade):

Wednesdays

March 6th (Ash Wednesday worship, 7pm)

March 13th (6-7pm)

SYNERGY YOUTH (5th -7th grades):

Wednesdays

March 6th (Ash Wednesday worship, 7pm)

March 27th (6-7:15pm)

4TH GRADE COMMUNITY

Wednesdays

March 6th (Ash Wednesday worship, 7pm)

March 20th (6-7:15pm)

COMING SOON...

CONFERENCE YOUTH EVENT!

Friday, April 26 @ 6:30 pm - Sunday, April 28 @ 11:30 am

Luther Crest Camp, 8231 County Road 11 NE

Alexandria, MN 56308 United States

cost: \$75

Youth oftentimes are the first point of contact when a friend is experiencing a crisis, whether they know how to help or not. This CYE we will explore how, as progressive Christians, to have healthy boundaries with compassion when friends are hurting. Rev. Kevin Brown, Associate Conference Minister for Faith Formation, and Lori Alford, MA, Pilgrim Point Camp Program Director, will help youth build a toolbox of appropriate responses when friends are experiencing mental health crises, family difficulties, drug or alcohol use or abuse, and physical or sexual assaults. Knowing these responses empowers youth to support the beloved community. Anyone currently enrolled in grades 6-12 is invited to participate in this event.

If you are interested, and would like more information, or to register, please go to: uccmn.org and then on the top toolbar click on Pilgrim Point, and you're on your way from there! Or contact Pastor Dana

CHILDREN'S FAITH-LEARNING COMMUNITY on Sundays!

March 3 - 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!

March 10, 17, 24 & 31 - 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 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 EVENTS OFFERED BY OUR WORK GROUPS!

EARTHWISE, FAIR TRADE, IMMIGRANT WELCOMING-INTERFAITH

MOVIE & POPCORN....

Join us Sunday, March 17th at 3:30 for popcorn and an afternoon movie. We are showing an award-winning movie that comes highly recommended by the MN Conference Immigration Team. It is called **Harvest of Empire: The Story of Latinos In America** and is based on the landmark book, "Harvest of Empire" by award-winning journalist Juan González. This feature-length documentary reveals the direct connection between the long history of U.S. intervention in Latin America and the immigration crisis we face today.

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. We have an opportunity to provide snacks for the homeless people who are there 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.

THANK YOU!

Thanks to all who contributed to this year's Justice and Witness Fund. Our giving to the United Church of Christ fund totaled \$464.

CONGREGATIONAL LIFE

The Men's Group: Saturday, March 9, 8:00 am at the WOW! Zone

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

MSU POET SERIES

Thursday, March 14th, 3-4pm

Open to the whole local community!

Come hear and talk with poet *Layli Long Soldier*

Dinner Out Gathering: Saturday, March 16, Star Fire Restaurant, 204 SW 2nd St, Waseca. Use Northeast door. **5pm tour of historic Miller Armstrong Building and dinner will begin at 5:30pm.** Roger & Cynthia A. will be your host for the evening. Sign-up is posted on the kiosk.

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: 1-917-202-3738**

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

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

Moderator: *Blake*

Choir Director: *Angie*

Music Director: *Diana*

Director of Christian Education: *Pat*

Parish Nurse: *Rochelle*

Office Coordinator: *Diane* katoucc@mankatoucc.org

Financial Secretary: *Donna*

March 2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3 8:45 AM Choir Rehearsal 9:30 AM Worship, Communion, Choir, OGHs Rec 10:30 AM Fellowship 10:45 AM Palm Burning with Deacons 11:00 AM Choir Rehearsal	4 7:00 PM Endowment Board Meeting 7:00 PM Musicorum Rehearsal	5 5:00 PM Health Ministry Team 6:00 PM Worship Ministry Team	6 6:00 PM Soup & Bread Supper 7:00 PM Ash Wednesday Service	7	8	9 All Youth Outing to St. Mary's Basilica 8:00 AM Men's Gr @ WOW Zone 9:00 AM Women's Gr @ WOW Zone
10 Daylight Saving Time 9:30 AM Worship, SS, Lenten Project Announcement 10:30 AM Fellowship 10:45 AM Conversation with Julio Zelaya from ACLU	11	12	13 6:00 PM -7:00 PM The Gathering (7 gr) 7:00 PM Musicorum Rehearsal	14 3:00 PM MSU Poet Series - Poet Layli Long Soldier 6:00 PM DV Quilters 6:00 PM Mission Ministry Team	15	16 5:00 PM Dinner Out & Tour @ Star Fire Restaurant & Miller Armstrong Bldg in Waseca
17 8:45 AM Choir Rehearsal 9:30 AM Worship, SS, Choir 10:30 AM Fellowship 11:00 AM Choir Rehearsal 3:30 PM Movie & Popcorn "Harvest of Empire: The Story of Latinos in America"	18 7:00 PM Stewardship Work Group Meeting	19 2:00 PM Parkinson's Support Gr. 5:30 PM Moms of Multiples 6:30 PM Trustee Board Meeting	20 5:45 PM Deacon Ministry Team 6:00 PM -7:15 PM 4th Grade Community 7:00 PM Musicorum Rehearsal	21 11:30 AM UCC Clergy Cluster	22	23
24 9:30 AM Worship, SS, Centering Strings 10:30 AM Fellowship 11:00 AM Choir Rehearsal	25	26	27 6:00 PM -7:15 PM Synergy (5-7 gr) 7:00 PM Musicorum Rehearsal	28 6:00 PM Church Council Meeting	29	30
31 9:30 AM Worship, SS 10:30 AM Fellowship 11:00 AM Choir Rehearsal						