
APRIL 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

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 Jesus’ death and resurrection, in the amazing transformation of death into life, God is revealed.

APRIL 2019 WORSHIP HIGHLIGHTS AND COMMON LECTIONARY TEXTS

* **April 7th Fifth Sunday in Lent**

Communion

Isaiah 43:16-21; Psalm 126; Philippians 3:4b-14; John 12:1-8

* **April 14th Sixth Sunday in Lent**

Palm to Passion Sunday

During worship we’ll welcome New Members into our midst!

Musicians: Choir

Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29; Luke 19:28-40; Isaiah 50:4-9a; Psalm 31:9-16;

Philippians 2:5-11; Luke 22:14-23:56 or Luke 23:1-49

April 18th: Maundy Thursday, 7pm

Service of Communion and Tenebrae

This evening we’ll share communion and remember together Jesus’ commandment to love one another. Following this, we will read contemporary writings and gospel words about Jesus’ last days, and experience the darkness that falls in and around us as he nears death. It’s a solemn evening in which music and candlelight play a meaningful role.

April 21st: Easter Day Alleluia!

9:30am Worship: *a host of musicians will join us as new light dawns!*

8:30am All Church Breakfast and Children’s Activities

10:30am Fellowship and Children’s Easter Egg Hunt

Acts 10:34-43 or Isaiah 65:17-25; Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24; 1 Corinthians 15:19-26 or

Acts 10:34-43; John 20:1-18 or Luke 24:1-12

* **April 28th Second Sunday of Easter**

Acts 5:27-32; Psalm 118:14-29 or Psalm 150; Revelation 1:4-8; John 20:19-31

THE CENTERING STRINGS:

The Centering Strings will be getting together for rehearsals, and will be participating in worship this spring and summer. 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.

YOUNG FAMILY GATHERING

FRIDAY APRIL 12TH

5-6:30pm

We'll share some food, and for about 15 minutes as a spiritual exercise we'll do a bit of yoga together (no worries -- just light stuff like breathing in and letting go!).

Then the children will go off with Pat to do Easter things, and the rest of us will linger to talk spiritual journey things. As the light of Easter will soon dawn, we'll explore dreams and hopes, and what that looks like as individuals and as families.

Please contact Pastor Dana if you plan to join if you have not already.

RESCHEDULED FOR SUNDAY APRIL 28TH AT 10:45 AM

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.

IMMIGRANT WELCOMING learning opportunities.

Members of Church Council, in response to the All Congregational Meeting held on Sunday March 24th, are putting together a series of learning events: films, speakers, bible study, hosting a dinner.

We'll explore together! Stay tuned for details...

POET SERIES:

Thursday, April 11th, 3-4pm; Fellowship Hall

Open to the whole local community!

The MSU Good Thunder Reading Series continues...

Memoirist and novelist Lidia Yuknavitch is this year's annual Nadine B. Andreas Visiting Writer Resident, in partnership with the University's Women's Center. Poet Lorna Pecard, a master of fine arts candidate in Minnesota State Mankato's Creative Writing Program and the 2018-19 Andreas graduate assistant, will read from her work.

YOUTH FAITH FORMATION...

SYNERGY YOUTH (5-7th grades):

Wednesday: April 3rd (6-7:15pm) We'll be making music together with Diana and Ken Stoll!

Thursday: April 18th, Maundy Thursday Worship, 7pm
Youth will be participating in worship

Wednesday April 24th (6-7:15) PIZZA PARTY with our Deacons

THE GATHERING (7th grade):

Wednesdays: April 10th (6-7pm)

Thursday: April 18th, Maundy Thursday Worship, 7pm
Youth will be participating in Worship

4TH GRADE COMMUNITY

Wednesday: April 17th (6-7:15pm)

Thursday: April 18th, Maundy Thursday Worship, 7pm

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

CONFERENCE YOUTH SUMMER WEEK!

A new venue, new focus...

SUNDAY JULY 28TH @4PM THROUGH THURSDAY, 1 @11:30AM

REGISTER BY APRIL 14TH FOR EARLY BIRD COST: \$300

after April 14th the cost is \$400 An Improvised Life: The Practice of Being, Belonging, and Becoming

As we have in the past, our church will help to support actively involved youth by contributing \$125 for summer camp. So the cost per child that the family picks up is \$175 given you register by April 14th.

Both of these events are open to those from 6th-12th grades.

For more information head to uccmn.org

or give me a call and we can do things together.

Here's a bit about the week:

Improvisation is an important metaphor for the spiritual life, and life in general. This year's youth camp week invites youth to learn some fundamental tools of improvisational comedy – being present in the moment, deep listening, building trust, and saying “yes, and” – and see how these same skills help deepen and enrich our spiritual lives and relationships. We are excited to be working collaboratively with The Theater of Public Policy to develop this year's youth camp experience. The Theater of Public Policy “advances the understanding of complex ideas and issues by drawing on improvisational comedy.” Each day youth will be invited to explore a unique focus area through a variety of interactive experiences. The focus areas may include topics such as:

- Taking the Risk of Being Yourself
- Trust and Relationships
- Finding Questions and Belonging
- Working Together to Make the Biggest Impact

Throughout the week, youth will have opportunity to enjoy other traditional camp experiences – swimming, camp fire, down-time with friends, outdoor games and exploration, music making, etc. All youth currently enrolled in grades 6-12 are invited to participate in this event.

CHILDREN'S FAITH-LEARNING COMMUNITY on Sundays!

April 7 - 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!

April 14 - Children's Faith Learning Community

April 21 - EASTER DAY Children will remain in worship with their families.

April 28 - 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

STRENGTHEN THE CHURCH

On Sunday, May 5th, we will be receiving the "Strengthen the Church" special mission offering of the UCC. This builds our future by:

- Funding new churches and invigorating existing congregations.
- Nurturing lay and pastoral leadership
- Building youth and young adult ministries
- Supporting the "God is Still Speaking" ministries, welcoming everyone

All gifts are directed to activities and programs of our church's local conference as well as the United Church of Christ national ministries.

A NOTE TO THANKS...

The Mission Ministry Team would like to thank you for your continued support of "One Great Hour of Sharing". Total giving for the 2019 campaign was \$1,029.00.

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**

Dinner Out Gathering:

Saturday, April 27th at 5:30 pm

La Plaza Fiesta Mexican Restaurant at 15 W. Main St., Madelia

April's gathering will be hosted by Jim & Gloria. A sign-up sheet 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 C.*

Choir Director: *Angie B-H.*

Music Director: *Diana S.*

Director of Christian Education: *Pat T.*

Parish Nurse: *Rochelle M.*

Office Coordinator: *Diane* katoucc@mankatoucc.org

Financial Secretary: *Donna S.*



**FIRST
CONGREGATIONAL
UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST**
Mankato, MN

**"United in Christ's love, a just
world for all."**

A PROGRESSIVE, OPEN AND AFFIRMING,
EARTHWISE, AND IMMIGRANT WELCOMING
CHRISTIAN CONGREGATION

Sunday Worship: 9:30 a.m. | 150 Stadium Court, Mankato, MN
www.mankatoucc.org | (507) 387-6592 | We're on Facebook! 

April 2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3 6:00 PM -7:15 PM Synergy (5-7 gr), Making music with Diana & Ken Stoll 7:00 PM Musicorum Rehearsal	4	5	6 9:00 AM -12:00 PM CPR Training
7 9:30 AM Worship, Communion 10:30 AM Fellowship 11:00 AM Choir Rehearsal	8 5:00 PM Health Ministry Team Meeting 6:00 PM-10:00 PM PEO	9 6:00 PM Worship Ministry Team Meeting	10 6:00 PM -7:00 PM The Gathering (7 gr) 7:00 PM Musicorum Rehearsal	11 3:00 PM -4:00 PM MSU Poet Series Memoirist & novelist Lidia Yuknavitch 6:00 PM DV Quilters	12 5:00 PM -6:30 PM Young Family Gathering	13 8:00 AM Meris Gr @ WOW Zone 9:00 AM Women's Gr @ WOW Zone
14 PALM SUNDAY 9:30 AM Worship, SS, Choir, New Member Reception 10:30 AM Fellowship 11:00 AM Choir Rehearsal	15 7:00 PM Endowment Board Meeting	16 2:00 PM Parkinson's Support Group 5:30 PM Moms of Multiples	17 6:00 PM -7:15 PM 4th Grade Community 7:00 PM Musicorum Rehearsal	18 MAUNDY THURSDAY 7:00 PM Service of Communion & Tenebrae	19 GOOD FRIDAY	20 10:00 AM -12:00 PM Easter Breakfast Prep 12:00 PM -1:00 PM Change Banners
21 EASTER 8:30 AM All Church Easter Breakfast & Children's Activities 9:00 AM Choir Rehearsal 9:30 AM Worship, Choir 10:30 AM Fellowship & Children's Easter Egg Hunt	22	23 6:30 PM Trustee Board Meeting	24 6:00 PM -7:15 PM Synergy (5-7 gr), Pizza with the Deacons	25 4:30 PM Mission Ministry Team Meeting 6:00 PM Church Council Meeting	26	27 All Church Spring Cleaning 5:30 PM Dinner Out @ La Plaza Fiesta Mexican Restaurant, 15 W Main St, Madelia
28 9:30 AM Worship, SS, Mission Moment 10:30 AM Fellowship 10:45 AM ACLU Discussion with Julio Zelaya	29	30 5:45 PM Deacon Ministry Team Meeting				