

APRIL 2018

“IN THE FIRST PLACE”

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

April 2018 Worship Highlights And Common Lectionary Readings

April 1st: Easter Day Alleluia!
We'll celebrate Communion
Musicians: Our Choir
Guest Musicians: String Quartet

- * **April 8th Second Sunday of Easter**
Acts 4:32-35; Psalm 133; John 1:1-2:2; John 20:19-31
- * **April 15th Third Sunday of Easter**
CONFIRMATION SUNDAY: *Come listen and celebrate with four young people as they each share their CREDO, their statement about where they are now on their spiritual journey!*
Musicians: Our Choir
Acts 3:12-19; Psalm 4; John 3:1-7; Luke 24:36b-48
- * **April 22nd Fourth Sunday of Easter**
EARTHWISE SERVICE: An Interfaith Service *of thanksgiving for this good earth, that will take us out into our backyard! Details to follow...*
Musicians: Centering Strings
Acts 4:5-12; Psalm 23; John 3:16-24; John 10:11-18
- * **April 29th Fifth Sunday of Easter**
Acts 8:26-40; Psalm 22:25-31; John 4:7-21, John 15:1-8

The Centering Strings:

The Centering Strings are getting together for rehearsals and will be participating in worship service this spring and summer. We are inviting anyone interested in joining us to contact Diana S.

Make A Joyful Noise!

All are welcome to join in our choir! Please see the schedule of rehearsals and worship participation on the kiosk in the narthex and talk with our director Angie.

YOUTH FAITH FORMATION...

CONFIRMATION (8th grade):

Wednesday: April 11th (6-7:15pm)

We'll be in the sanctuary preparing for Sunday's Credo reading and the Rite of Confirmation!

**RITE OF CONFIRMATION
SUNDAY APRIL 15TH, 9:30AM WORSHIP**

SYNERGY YOUTH (4-6th grades):

Wednesday: April 18th (6-7:15pm)

HERE'S WHAT'S COMING UP!

PILGRIM POINT YOUTH CAMP (Youth 6th to 12th grade)

Sunday July 29th - Friday August 3rd

(this year this is the only youth camp weekend offered)

This year's theme: Sowing Beauty, Sowing Life

Come dig more deeply into the meaning of gratitude and how it shapes our lives.

Registration is open!

- go to uccmn.org
- on the top bar click on Pilgrim Point
- in the section on the left click on Conference Camps and retreats
- scroll ALL the way down until you see youth camp...
- follow to registration from there

Please DO NOT pay anything! We will send one big check from church...

The total cost is \$300 until May 1st (after that it goes up to \$375). Our church will cover \$125 for each youth. (As we get closer, please make your \$175 check out to our church and drop it by with your paperwork...)

Please let Pastor Dana know when you register!

As always, if finances are difficult please speak to Pastor in confidence before May 1st. We'll make it work for all young people who are active in our church to share in the fun!

IF YOU ARE UNABLE TO DO THE YOUTH CAMP WEEK, HAVE A LOOK AT THIS. Our church will cover \$125 for each youth who chooses this as an alternative to youth camp week:

**YOUTH MISSION WEEK at PILGRIM POINT
SUNDAY JULY 22 - FRIDAY JULY 27TH**

Theme: This week Pilgrim Point will partner with Interfaith Power and Light to create a week of service-learning. Service projects will be at Pilgrim Point Camp and in the surrounding community, and will offer youth an opportunity to explore the church's work for justice in the world and how they might use their energy and resources to become change makers in their own communities.

For more information follow the same links as above.

Please connect with Pastor Dana if this is of interest to you as an alternative.

HERE'S A THIRD WONDERFUL OPPORTUNITY: Our church will cover \$125 for each youth who chooses this as an alternative to youth camp week or youth mission week:

The West Central Regional Youth Event (WCRYE)

June 19 -22 on the campus of Grinnell College in Grinnell, Iowa.

Registration for WCRYE will be open until May 15, 2018.

A gathering of youth (those who have completed 6th grade through graduated high school seniors) from the United Church of Christ and the Disciples of Christ.

The West Central Regional Youth Event will include dynamic worship, hands on mission experience, small group faith exploration, inspirational music by Convergence Music Project, and an opportunity for all to explore how to put their faith into action.

The theme for our gathering is Faith = Action: A Just World for All

The fee for RYE registration is \$325 (including housing and meal expenses) and must be paid at the time of registration. Registrants must know the church group they will be traveling with and the youth leader who will have responsibility for that group at the time of registration.

To register, or **for more information on WCRYE**, please visit:

www.rye2018.org

Please connect with Pastor Dana if this is of interest to you as an alternative.

Service to the Church - 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 sign up on the Acolyte list found on the kiosk or text/call Pat T. with a date that works for your family. Thank you.

POET SERIES:

Thursday, April 5th, 3-4pm; Fellowship Hall
Open to the whole local community!

Join creative nonfiction writer and poet Nicole Walker as she discusses her essays that examine nature, the environment, and the parallels between environmental abuse and sexual abuse.

MISSION MINISTRY

THANK YOU...

A huge thank you to everyone who participated in our Lenten projects. An update will be given when all the numbers are in.

EARTHWISE WORK GROUP FILM NIGHT...

Friday, April 13th at 6 pm in the Fellowship Hall
Come for pizza and salad!

“JUST EAT IT”: A FOOD WASTE STORY

A documentary about the food we eat, and the incredible amount of food that goes uneaten! Here's what's been said...

Filmmakers and food lovers, Jen and Grant, dive into the issue of food waste from farm to retail, right to the back of their own frig. In a deliciously entertaining challenge, they pledge to quit grocery shopping and survive only on discarded food.

EARTHWISE WORK GROUP FUNDRAISER

Our Compost fundraiser will be April 28, Saturday and April 29th, Sunday from 11am to 1pm in the church parking lot on the driveway to the storage shed. We will be selling 20 pound compostable lawn bags (sturdier than last year) of compost for \$3.50 each. Anyone wishing to order bags ahead of time, please sign up on the sign-up sheet on the kiosk. Anyone who would like to volunteer to fill bags, please contact Jane D. **We will be filling bags that Saturday morning from 8:00 to 10:00.**

Proceeds will go to our Earthwise Work Group projects.

SPRING HIGHWAY CLEAN UP:

Saturday, April 21 at 9am

Meet at the usual place on the north side of Eagle Lake, Hwy 26. If it's still snowing, contact Doug W. for further details.

HABITAT FOR HUMANITY WORK DAY

The Mission Ministry Team is “floating” the idea of doing a work day to help build an affordable home for a deserving family. This would be a one-day event, generally on a Saturday. An ideal work group would be eight to ten people, men and women. HfH provides a crew leader, materials and safety training. Their policy requires a minimum age of 16. Bob Peterson has agreed to coordinate our group.

Bob has worked with Habitat groups for several years and has seen many heartfelt results for the new homeowners... especially the children. It is a good opportunity to gain some hands-on experience with home building. First Step... is to establish our level of interest. There is a Sign-Up Sheet on the kiosk in the narthex. See Bob for more information.

STRENGTHEN THE CHURCH

On Sunday, April 29th, we will be receiving the "Strengthen the Church" special mission offering.

This builds our future by:

Funding new churches and invigorating existing congregations

Nurturing lay and pastoral leaderships

Building youth and young adult ministries

Supporting the "God is Still Speaking" ministry, welcoming everyone

These offerings will benefit the MN Conference as well as our denominations national ministries. A letter with more information will be sent on April 23, 2018.

FAIR TRADE EVENTS...

MAFTTI will have a Fair Trade table with literature and Fair Trade products at the **MSU International Festival, April 22, Sunday from 11am to 5pm** Stop by, try a chocolate sample, buy Fair Trade products and learn about Fair Trade.

THE FAIR TRADE FUNDRAISER TEA AND FASHION SHOW will be May 6th, 2-4:30pm at Messiah Lutheran church, 1706 Lee Blvd., North Mankato. We will have delicious Fair Trade sandwiches and desserts and, of course, Fair Trade tea. The fashion show will feature clothing from Stick and Stones, Creekside Boutique, MSU Barnes and Noble Alta Gracia sportswear, Indigo and Encore. Tickets are \$10.00 adults, \$5.00 children. If you would like to purchase a ticket, host a table or bring food, we will have a table with tickets and sign-up sheet after the service Sundays from the 15th through the 29th.

TUTORING at the Mankato Islamic Center Continues...

New volunteers are always welcome!

The Basics: Mondays and Thursdays from 4-6pm

Tutors choose one of the days that works best for them.

There are some young people that we work with who have lived in Mankato for much of their lives, and others who have just arrived from Somalia and other war-torn countries. For some, language is the first challenge. They are all in school, the older students come with their computers from school, and there are three learning groups:

- younger children (k-1) who are working on reading and basic arithmetic;
- 3rd-5th graders who are, as you can imagine, all over! Math, science, social studies;
- 6th-9th graders are focused on math and science

The hope is to have two tutors for each learning group -- tutors will keep the same group so relationships can build!

As those who have been tutoring have expressed, this project is gift giving all around. It is definitely a cross cultural experience! The plan as we look forward this coming year is to also work with mothers of these young people...

Please connect with Pastor Dana for more information.

CONGREGATIONAL LIFE

The Men's Group: Saturday, April 14th, 8:00 am at the WOW! Zone

The Women's Group: Saturday, April 14th, 9:00 am at the WOW! Zone

Dinner Out: Saturday, April 21, 5:30 pm at the Good Thunder Bar. Sign up on the kiosk in the church narthex. Mike & Lyn D. are coordinating the evening. Hope to see you there!

DEACONS MINISTRY NEWS...

2018 Church Photo Directory

Please join us for a free professional photography session and be included in the new First Congregational United Church of Christ's Directory. We need you to help make our directory complete! **Photography starts May 7th.** You will receive a free 8X10 portrait, a free printed directory, and have the opportunity to purchase additional portraits. Go to apt.lifetouch.com or call 1.866.756.0281 to schedule your appointments.

Pilgrim Point Family Camp June 22-24...

Spring is coming.

It's time to think about going to the lake!!!

Everyone is welcome for a weekend of fun and relaxation on the shores of Lake Ida.

Put June 22-24 on your calendar for First Congregational UCC weekend at Pilgrim Point Camp near Alexandria.

We have reserved the Lodge (10 BR) and the Annex (2 large BR) for the weekend.

Cost (5 meals, 2 nights) is only \$125 for adults, \$50 for grade 6-12, and \$30 for age 4-grade 5 (age 3 and under are free).

Signup by May 20, pay by June 3.

Call Kim S. if you have questions.



HEALTH MINISTRIES

Assistance Available:

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

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 10:30 am - noon & 1-3 pm

Tuesday - Thursday 9:00 am - noon & 1-3 pm

Friday 9:00 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 D.*

Choir Director: *Angie*

Organist: *Diana S.*

Director of Christian Education: *Pat T.*

Parish Nurse: *Rochelle M.*

Office Coordinator: *Diane* katoucc@mankatoucc.org

Financial Secretary: *Donna S.*

April 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Easter Day 8:15 AM All Church Easter Breakfast & Children's Activities 8:45 AM Choir Rehearsal 9:30 AM Communion, Choir, Special Music 10:30 AM Children's Easter Egg Hunt, Fellowship	2	3	4 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM Musicorum Rehearsal	5 3:00 PM - 4:00 PM MSU Poet Series Environmental Abuse/Sexual Abuse	6	7
8 9:30 AM Worship, SS 10:30 AM Choir Rehearsal 10:30 AM Fellowship 11:00 AM Immigrant Welcoming Work Group 11:00 AM Stewardship Work Group 3:00 PM Earthwise Work Group	9 4-6 pm Tutoring at Mankato Islamic Center 6:00 PM - 9:00 PM PEO	10 4:45 PM Worship Ministry Team	11 6:00 PM - 7:15 PM Confirmation	12 4-6 pm Tutoring at Mankato Islamic Center 6:00 PM DV Quilters 6:00 PM Mission Ministry Team	13 6:00 PM Earthwise Movie & Pizza "Just Eat It"	14 8:00 AM Men's Gr @ WOW Zone 9:00 AM Women's Gr @ WOW Zone
15 Confirmation Sunday 9 & 11 am Choir Rehearsal 9:30 AM Worship, SS, Choir, Rite of Confirmation 10:30 AM Fellowship	16 4-6 pm Tutoring at Mankato Islamic Center 5:30 PM Deacons 7:00 PM Endowment Fund Board	17 2:00 PM Parkinson's Support Group 5:30 PM - 9:30 PM Moms of Multiples	18 6:00 PM - 7:15 PM Synergy 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM Musicorum Rehearsal	19 4-6 pm Tutoring at Mankato Islamic Center 11:30 AM UCC Clergy Cluster 6:30 PM Trustee Board	20 <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; display: inline-block;"> Deadline for May Newsletter </div>	21 9:00 AM Highway Clean Up 5:30 PM Dinner Out Gathering at Thunder Bar & Restaurant
22 9:30 AM Earthwise Worship Service, SS, Centering Strings, Mission Moment 10:30 AM Fellowship 11:00 AM Choir Rehearsal	23 4-6 pm Tutoring at Mankato Islamic Center	24	25	26 4-6 pm Tutoring at Mankato Islamic Center 6:00 PM Church Council Meeting	27	28 8:00 AM - 10:00 AM Compost Bag Filling 11:00 AM - 1:00 PM Compost Fundraiser
29 9:30 AM Worship, SS, Special Music 10:30 AM Fellowship 11:00 AM - 1:00 PM Compost Fundraiser 11:00 AM Choir Rehearsal 5:30 PM - 8:30 PM Laws of Life Essay Program	30 4-6 pm Tutoring at Mankato Islamic Center					