
MAY 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

MAY 2019 WORSHIP HIGHLIGHTS AND COMMON LECTIONARY TEXTS

* **May 5** *Third Sunday of Easter*

Communion

Musicians: Choir

Acts 9:1-6, (7-20); Psalm 30; Revelations 5:11-14; John 1:1-19

* **May 12** *Fourth Sunday of Easter*

Acts 9:36-43; Psalm 23; Revelations 7:9-17; John 10:22-30

* **May 19** *Fifth Sunday Of Easter*

Join in a special spring celebration!

Musicians: Choir

Acts 11:1-18; Psalm 148; Revelations 21:1-6; John 13:31-35

* **May 26** *Sixth Sunday of Easter*

Acts 16:9-15; Psalm 67; Revelations 21:10, 22-22:5; John 14:23-29 or John 5:1-9

THE CENTERING STRINGS:

The Centering Strings will be getting together for rehearsals, and will be participating in worship the spring into summer months. Anyone interested in joining is welcome!

MAKE A JOYFUL NOISE!

The **UCC Choir** is off for the summer months but we will be back rehearsing in the fall. We welcome all voices and abilities - don't worry if you can't read music or attend every rehearsal or performance.

. Watch for our fall rehearsal schedule in August and hope to see you at a rehearsal soon!

CELEBRATING DIANE!

Sunday May 5th after worship in Fellowship Hall, we'll join in giving thanks to our Office Administrator who is retiring at the beginning of June. We'll share refreshments, and even as we know we'll miss her greatly, we'll send her off with blessings of joy!

IMMIGRANT WELCOMING learning opportunities.

Members of Church Council, in response to the All Congregational Meeting held on Sunday March 24th, have put together a series of learning events: films, speakers, bible study. Here's what we know so far...

FRIDAY AND SATURDAY MAY 17TH AND 18TH

- **Friday evening May 17th we'll gather at 6:30pm for light refreshments and a viewing of the film Undeterred.**

Undeterred is a documentary about community resistance in the rural border town of Arivaca, AZ. It is an intimate and unique portrait of how residents in a small rural community, caught in the cross-hairs of global geo-political forces, have mobilized to demand human rights and to provide aid to injured, oft times dying people funneled across a wilderness desert. The film was made by Eva Lewis, a resident of Arivaca and long-time member of People Helping People in the Border Zone. Undeterred was created in close collaboration with the Arivaca community.

- **Saturday morning May 18th at 10:30am we'll gather for Bible Study** to reflect on what our sacred texts have to say about welcoming the stranger and resisting violence. Blake Cwill lead us in the conversation.

We'll share lunch at 12pm with our guest speakers.

And continue our conversation at 12:30pm with Lisa Kremer from Familias Juntas, and other residents from Worthington, MN.

We'll explore how the local community (food shelves, churches, schools etc.) has been responding to the increasing fears and threats that immigrants, documented and undocumented, are encountering.

SAVE THE DATES...

FOR MORE CONVERSATIONS, FILMS AND SPEAKERS!

- **JUNE:** Sunday the 9th 10:45am
Sunday the 30th at 10:45am
 - **JULY:** Friday the 26th at 6:30pm
 - **AUGUST:** Sunday the 18th at 10:45
-

YOUTH FAITH FORMATION...

4TH GRADE COMMUNITY

Wednesday: May 15th (6-7:15pm)

SYNERGY YOUTH (5-7th grades):

Wednesday: May 22nd (6-7:15pm)

THE GATHERING (7th grade):

Wednesday May 8th (6-7pm)

CONFERENCE YOUTH SUMMER WEEK!

A new venue, new focus...

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

\$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.

Camp is 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!

May 5 - 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!

May 12, 19 & 26 - Children's Faith Learning Community
All are welcome!

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.

EARTHWISE COMPOST SALE FUNDRAISER

May 4 and 5 (Saturday & Sunday) and May 11 (Saturday), 11:00 to 1:00 in the parking lot. The compost will be \$3.50 a paper bag of 20 pounds. The compost comes from Mike Fitzsimmons and Sons Farm in Good Thunder. They are a commercial compost facility. Their compost is very high quality, has been tested for pollutants and found safe for edible gardens. There is a sign-up sheet on the kiosk for ordering and volunteering. You don't have to order ahead of time. You can just come the day of and pick up. Thanks.

ROADSIDE CLEAN UP

Saturday, May 4th at 9 am.

Contact Doug for meeting site details.

EARTHWISE CONVERSATION

Sunday, May 19th, Green New Deal Presentation/Speaker

Details to follow...

WORLD FAIR TRADE DAY IS MAY 11

It is a time to honor and celebrate our hard-working producers and farmers in developing countries that provide all the wonderful high quality products we love and buy. Mankato Fair Trade will have Fair Trade coffee sampling as usual at Hy Vee Hilltop and Cub East from 11:00 to 3:00, Saturday the 11th. Please stop by and see all the Fair Trade products these stores carry. We will also have display boards at The Coffee Hag that serves only Fair Trade, Tandem Bagels, The Fillin' Station and Neutral Groundz in north Mankato that all serve Fair Trade coffee and Mary Lou and Ewe Yarn shop that carries Fair Trade yarn handcrafts.

A THANK YOU NOTE...

A big thank you to everyone who made our Lenten project a success. One hundred pounds of food and \$400. were delivered to Echo Food Shelf. These amounts were doubled because of March Madness. Ten baskets of goods were delivered to S.S. Resource Center to help the homeless with needed items to settle into their new apartments.

CONGREGATIONAL LIFE

FLEXIBILITY WORKSHOP

Join UCC member Theresa on **Saturday, May 4, from 10-11am here at church** to learn about the benefits of flexibility, practice several Key stretches you can do on your own, and try a sample of Theresa's assisted stretch service. This will benefit you, whether you're already slowing down or to prevent slowing before you "age."

Theresa holds a Master's degree in exercise science and is an experienced assisted stretch professional, and owns Flexibility4All here in Mankato.

There's a sign-up sheet on the kiosk! Questions?

MOTHER'S DAY SPECIAL SERVICE

Sunday, May 12, bring one of your mother's favorite recipes filled with love and memories. Let's honor our mothers by bringing a recipe (photo copy, or a recipe card) complete with a photo and a memory if you wish! Also add you name so others can ask you for a copy. We will display them on the fellowship tables May 12. What a yummy way to honor and cherish our moms.

Worship Committee

THANK YOU

So many thanks to Jan for the stunning quilted Ordinary Time Banner hanging by the entrance to the sanctuary.

Worship Ministry Team

THE MEN'S GROUP: Saturday, May 11, 8:00 am at the WOW! Zone

THE WOMEN'S GROUP: Saturday, May 11, 9:00 am at the WOW! Zone

DINNER OUT GATHERING: Saturday, May 18th at 5:30 pm, Trailblazer Bar & Grill, 301 Main Street, Madison Lake.

The last gathering of the season will be hosted by Mike & Marlys. A sign-up sheet is posted on the kiosk.

ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM FACILITY MINISTRY TEAM

• **FOLDING CHAIRS**

We are cleaning out some closets and have found folding chairs that will be available at the end of May. They are metal, with one of them as an example near the kiosk. Please sign-up if you would like some and write in how many you would like. **They are FREE!**

• **CHURCH GARDEN**

Church Garden spots available!! Please sign-up for a garden plot that you can tend to this summer. The map of the garden is on the kiosk. If you have never noticed, the garden is over by the storage garage. Sign your name on one of the beds. **First come, first gets!** Water available in the area when the rain barrels are put in place.

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**



MONDAY, MAY 27

The Church Office will be closed.

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 B* katoucc@mankatoucc.org

Financial Secretary: *Donna S*



**"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! 

May 2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2	3	4 9:00 AM Highway Clean-up 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM Flexibility Workshop 11:00 AM - 1:00 PM Earthwise Compost Sale, church parking lot
5 8:45 AM Choir Rehearsal 9:30 AM Worship, Communion, Choir, Strengthen the Church Received 10:30 AM Fellowship, Diane Bartelt Retirement Gathering 11:00 AM Choir Rehearsal 11:00 AM - 1:00 PM Earthwise Compost Sale, church parking lot 1:30 PM Private Event	6	7 5:30 PM Art Work Group Meeting	8 6:00 PM - 7:00 PM The Gathering (7 gr)	9 6:00 PM DV Quilters	10	11 8:00 AM Meris Gr @ WOW Zone 9:00 AM Women's Gr @ WOW Zone 11:00 AM - 1:00 PM Earthwise Compost Sale, church parking lot
12 MOTHER'S DAY 9:30 AM Worship, SS, Mission Moment 10:30 AM Fellowship	13	14 4:45 PM Worship Ministry Team Meeting 6:30 PM Trustee Board Meeting	15 6:00 PM - 7:15 PM 4th Grade Community	16	17 6:30 PM Immigrant Welcoming Film "Undeterred", Refreshments	18 10:30 AM Bible Study with Blake Couey, 12 pm Lunch 12:30 PM Conversation with Lisa Kremer from Familias Juntas 5:30 PM Dinner Out @ Trailblazer in Madison Lake
19 8:45 AM Choir Rehearsal 9:30 AM Worship, SS, Mission Moment, Choir 10:30 AM Fellowship 10:45 AM Green New Deal Presentation 6:30 PM - 8:30 PM Private Event	20	21 2:00 PM Parkinson's Support Group 5:30 PM Moms of Multiples	22 6:00 PM - 7:15 PM Synergy (5-7 gr)	23 4:30 PM Mission Ministry Team Meeting 6:00 PM Church Council Meeting	24	25
26 9:30 AM Worship, SS 10:30 AM Fellowship	27 Memorial Day Church Office Closed	28	29	30 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM Private Event	31	