

FEBRUARY 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

WORSHIP HIGHLIGHTS & COMMON LECTIONARY READINGS

* **February 4** *5th Sunday after the Epiphany*
Communion
Musicians: Choir
Isaiah 40:21-31; Psalm 147:1-11, 20c; 1 Corinthians 9:16-23; Mark 1:29-39

* **February 11** *6th Sunday after the Epiphany*
Transfiguration
After worship we’ll gather to pray and burn last year’s palm leaves into ashes.
2 Kings 2:1-12; Psalm 50:1-6, 2 Corinthians 4:3-6; Mark 9:2-9

FEBRUARY 14TH 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.

* **February 18** *1st Sunday in Lent*
Musicians: Choir
Genesis 9:8-17; Psalm 25:1-10; 1 Peter 3:18-22; Mark 1:9-15

* **February 28** *2nd Sunday in Lent*
Musicians: Centering Strings
Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16; Psalm 22:23-31; Romans 4:13-25; Mark 8:31-38 or Mark 9:2-9

The Centering Strings:

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

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.

A Call To Those Interested in Photography, Film Making, or Social Media!

Experienced or just wanting to learn, we want your help...

One of the themes that the Board of Deacons has wrestled with over the last several months is how we can best capture our identity as a congregational and engage with an ever changing community. To that end, we hope to maintain a visual record of the life of the church, that we can use not only as a witness of where we've been, but also as a tool for sharing who we are. We have been looking into purchasing a video camera that we can use to record our activity with the community, whether that be services, such as Martin Luther King Jr. Day or Thanksgiving, special music performances, or events like Pridefest. We want to document and share our vibrant ministry, but first, we need people like you to help us do it.

We need a team of people with a passion for sharing who we are with the world, and an interest in social media, or film making, or photography. Young or old, experienced or just wanting to learn, we want your help. This project is more than any one person can handle alone, but with a group of passionate individuals behind it, we can aspire to document our past, our present, and our future. The time commitment would be minimal, but the possibilities are endless. If you would be interested in getting involved, or learning more, please contact Pastor Dana, Steve, or Noah. We look forward to seeing where you'll take us.

ADULT STUDIES

BOOK/BIBLE STUDY CONTINUES!

Sundays, 3:30-5pm

February 11th, 18th, 25th

We'll gather to continue reading, and questioning!

Living The Questions: The Wisdom of Progressive Christianity

(Felton and Procter – Murphy).

Each chapter can stand alone, so come as you can.

MSU POET SERIES: Thursday, February 22nd, 3-4pm; Fellowship Hall

Open to the whole local community!

Come hear and talk with poet Meg Day about her poems and crafting them around themes about sexual orientation, gender identity, and disability.

YOUTH FAITH FORMATION...

CONFIRMATION (8th grade): Wednesdays

February 14th (Ash Wednesday worship 7pm)

February 21st (6-7:15pm) Members of our ministry teams will join us for pizza and talk about the things our church does.

February 28th (6-7:15pm)

SYNERGY YOUTH (4-6th grades): Wednesdays

February 14th (Ash Wednesday worship, 7pm)

February 21st (6-7:15pm) Members of our ministry teams will join us for pizza and talk about the things our church does.

CHILDREN'S FAITH-LEARNING COMMUNITY

ALL CHILDREN AGE 3-6TH GRADE ARE WELCOME!

This year's Sunday program for children will involve learning through children's literature, bible stories, and thematic activities, and will focus on helping the older children develop leadership skills.

- **February 4 – Communion Sunday:** Children attend worship with family
- **February 11 – Theme:** God's grace shines on us through one another
Book: Keep the Lights Burning Abbie
Bible Story Scripture: Story of Ruth 1:1-18; 4:13-17
- **February 18 – Theme:** Temptations!
Book: Oh No George!
Bible Story Scripture: Temptation, Luke 4:1-14
- **February 25 – Theme:** Temptations!
Book: Oh No George!
Bible Story Scripture: Repentance – Turning Around Zacchaeus' story in Luke 19:1-10

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

MISSION MINISTRY

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.

EARTHWISE MOVIE NIGHT:

The Earthwise Team will be hosting another movie night, Saturday, February 10th. We will meet in the church fellowship hall at 5pm for a great soup supper and then watch the movie, "Forks over Knives". The idea of food as medicine is put to the test! And what affect does our diet have on the environment. It will leave an impression on you!

FILM NIGHT: Saturday, February 24th, 6pm

Come join in a viewing (and of course, popcorn and sweets too)!

WHO IS DAYANI CRISTAL?

This documentary film by Gael Garcia Bernal and Marc Silver is a Sundance Film Festival and NY Film Festival award winner that will touch hearts and open minds! *Compellingly Multifaceted*, says a reviewer from the New York Times; *Deeply Moving*, says the Hollywood Reporter. Here's a bit about it:

*The body of an unidentified migrant is found in the Arizona desert. In an attempt to retrace his path and discover his story, director Marc Silver and actor/filmmaker Gael Garcia Bernal embedded themselves among the migrant travelers on their own mission to cross the border. **This film provides rare insight into the human stories that are so often ignored in the immigration debate.***

One Great Hour of Sharing

One Great Hour of Sharing is a special mission offering of the United Church of Christ that carries God's message of love and hope to people in more than eighty countries.

The UCC works with international partners to provide sources of clean water and food, education and health care, small business micro-credit, emergency relief, advocacy and resettlement for refugees and displaced persons. OGHS also supports domestic and international ministries for disaster preparedness and response.

You will be receiving a letter soon and this offering will be collected during our Lenten giving. Thank you for your support.

INTER-GENERATIONAL LENTEN PROJECT!

Details will be coming soon! But for now...

Come join in a conversation about OPEN DOOR HEALTH CENTER

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 25TH, 10:45AM

We'll hear about the Center, the non-profit organization that we will be supporting this year through our Lenten project.

CONGREGATIONAL LIFE

***The Men's Group:* Saturday, February 10th, 8:00 am at the WOW! Zone**

***The Women's Group:* Saturday, February 10th, 9:00 am at the WOW! Zone**

Dinner Out: Doug & Bev will be hosting the **Saturday Dinner Out Gathering on February 17th**. What is more appropriate than to meet at "The Woods" on beautiful Lake Emily near St Peter. Sign up at church or contact Bev. Hope to see you there!

HEALTH MINISTRIES

Blood Pressure Check:

Blood pressure check will be on **Sunday, February 4th**. The Parish Nurse will be in the church **Library** after worship service.

Assistance Available:

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

Parkinson's Support Group Up-date:

The Southern Minnesota Parkinson's Education and Support Group was founded by Russell Ahlstrom in Mankato over 38 years ago. Russ was diagnosed with Parkinson's disease at age 21 and is still alive today in his 70s. His sister also has the disease and was diagnosed at age 48 and she is 85. These early onset people diagnosed at young ages live a long time with the disease. Those who are diagnosed in their 70s and 80s often live ten to 15 years longer. This is one reason why the support group is important. People need to learn about their disease, how to treat it and how to plan ahead for advancing symptoms.

The group that meets monthly in our church is averaging well over 40 people with Parkinson's from this area and usually over 25 people are at the meetings. They appreciate our large parking lot and the easy accessibility to the Commons area. If you have an acquaintance that has Parkinson's encourage them to come join the group. Our church library has a small section that houses books, pamphlets etc. available to Parkinson's patients.

Over the years, church members with Parkinson's have attended meetings. All were proud of our church stepping up to support this group. It is very important to for the group to have a welcoming area in its efforts to educate people with Parkinson's Disease and those who have questions about the disease. **The Parkinson's Support Group meets the 3rd Tuesday, March through December at 2:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall.**

I hear many nice comments about our facilities and believe me they are much appreciated.

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 10:30 am - noon & 1-3 pm

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

Friday 9:00 am - noon

Monday, February 19 - Presidents' Day - 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

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

Moderator: Silas D

Choir Director: Angie B H

Organist: Diana S

Director of Christian Education: Pat T

Parish Nurse: Rochelle M

Office Coordinator: Diane B

Financial Secretary: Donna S

February 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 4-6 pm Tutoring at Mankato Islamic Ctr.	2	3
4 9&11 am Choir Reh 9:30AM Communion, Choir, Guest Preacher 10:30 AM Fellowship & Blood Pressure Check	5 4-6 pm Tutoring at Mankato Islamic Ctr.	6	7 7:00 PM-9:00 PM Musicum Rehearsal	8 4-6 pm Tutoring at Mankato Islamic Ctr. 6:00 PM DV Quilters	9	10 8:00AM Men's Gr @ WOW Zone 9:00AM Women's Gr @ WOW Zone 5:00 PM Earthwise Soup Supper & Film No extra events
11 9:30AM Worship, SS 10:30 AM Fellowship 10:45 AM Burning Ashes 11:00 AMC Choir Reh 3:30 PM-5:00 PM Book/Bible Study with Pastor Dana	12 4-6 pm Tutoring at Mankato Islamic Ctr.	13 2:30 PM Homeless Work Group 4:45 PM Worship Ministry Team	14 Ash Wednesday 6:00 PM Soup Supper 6:15 PM Choir Reh 7:00 PM Ash Wednesday Service, Choir	15 4-6 pm Tutoring at Mankato Islamic Ctr. 11:30AM UCC Clergy Cluster	16	17 5:30 PM Dinner Out Gathering at The Woods in St Peter by Lake Emily
No extra events						
18 9&11 am Choir Reh 9:30AM Worship, SS, Choir 10:30 AM Fellowship 11:15 AM Stewardship Meeting 3:30 PM-5:00 PM Book/Bible Study with Pastor Dana	19 Presidents' Day Church Office Closed	20 <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; width: fit-content; margin: 0 auto;">Deadline for March Newsletter</div> 4:30 PM Mission Ministry Team 5:30 PM-9:30 PM Moms of Multiples 6:30 PM Trustee Board	21 6:00 PM-7:15 PM Synergy & Confirmation Youth, Pizza with Team Leaders 7:00 PM-9:00 PM Musicum Rehearsal	22 4-6 pm Tutoring at Mankato Islamic Ctr. 3:00 PM-4:00 PM MSU Poetry Series - Gender & Social Class 6:00 PM Church Council Meeting	23	24 6:00 PM Immigrant Welcoming Film
25 9:30AM Worship, Centering Strings 10:30 AM Fellowship 11:00 AM Adult Ed - Open Door Conversation 3:30 PM-5:00 PM Book/Bible Study with Pastor Dana	26 4-6 pm Tutoring at Mankato Islamic Ctr.	27	28 6:00 PM Choir Reh 6:00 PM-7:15 PM Confirmation 7:00 PM-9:00 PM Musicum Rehearsal			