

# Steeple Notes

Volume 34 Issue 1

"Inspiring Faith. Improving Lives."

January, 2019



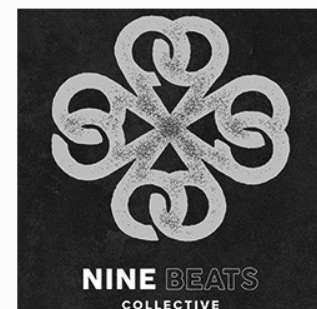
Join Robin and Paul at the 2019 Inter-Faith Ministries Souper Bowl on Friday, February 1, 2019 from 10:30 - 1:30 at the First Presbyterian Church, 525 N. Broadway. Tickets are \$20.00 at the door. All-you-can-eat soup, fresh bread, home-made desserts, beverages, and live music all to benefit Inter-Faith Ministries homeless shelters!

## NEW BUILDING USE POLICY IN EFFECT

At its meeting January 21, the Board of Trustees adopted a Building Use Policy. This policy identifies a process for reserving our building, defines terms and conditions of use, establishes a schedule of fees, suggests fees for funerals, and includes the Women's Guild Service Policy. The Finance Committee, an *ad hoc* committee of the Trustees, developed this policy as one of its efforts to create a sustainable future for UCC. Previously our church accommodated members' and non-members' use of the building free or at costs not equal to expenses incurred. This policy is designed to correct that practice. The policy (including the reservation process) is available for all on our website. Philip Rhea, President - Board of Trustees

The Music Board would like to invite any church members with a desire to sing choral music to join the choir for Dr. Hanawalt's last semester at UCC. The music that Michael selects for Sunday service is relatively easy and he does a wonderful and thoughtful job of preparing the choir, students and volunteers alike for each Sunday's music. The students are a ton of fun to be around and are so friendly and helpful to the volunteer singers. Rehearsals are Wednesday nights from 7 to 8 PM and we rehearse again on Sunday mornings starting promptly at 9:30 AM. I hope that you will join us to experience singing with the choir under the excellent direction and care of Dr. Michel Hanawalt.

**A ten-week exploration of the Beatitudes and how we can use them to inspire our faith and improve our lives.**



## THE NINE BEATS

2019 Spring Wednesday Night Alive Class  
Wednesday Evenings from 6 PM to 7 PM  
February 6, 2019 through April 10, 2019

UNIVERSITY CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH  
9209 E. 29TH NORTH, WICHITA KS 67226  
WWW.UCCURCH.ORG - 316-634-0430

### **Annual Council Report, 2018**

The 2018 Church Council reported on its eleven regular meetings. They guided and supported each church board and reviewed board reports, financial reports and senior and associate ministers reports.

The Personnel Committee coordinated the annual review for Rev. Robin McGonigle and considered particular personnel issues brought before the committee.

The Outreach Board had a very successful year supporting Head-To-Toe Hygiene Pantry, Gammon Elementary School and providing leadership, volunteers, and contributions to a wide variety of community non-profits.

The Board of Deacons was very busy with refreshments, special events, communion special projects supporting the Strategic Growth Committee.

The Music Board implemented a new music folder gift for graduating seniors and have a very successful Student Scholarship Program which finished the year with approximately \$50,000. They will be searching for a new music director starting in Spring of 2019.

The UCC Women's Guild provided social and fellowship gatherings and supported various community causes and church projects.

The UCC Board of Trustees met continuing challenges with upkeep of the church including regular maintenance, aging equipment and increased efficiency. The greatest challenge this year was funding the 2019 budget. The board was forced to make reductions to the proposed budget, but the congregation responded to pleas for increased giving and helped avoid deeper cuts.

Rev. Dr. Robin McGonigle and Rev. Paul Ellis Jackson reported that this was a year of strong growth for the church with a net increase of 19 members (26 new members and 7 deaths) for a current active membership of 293. Average Sunday attendance grew 5% over the previous year (158 in 2017 and 164 in 2018). They continued to be extremely active in the Wichita community and officiated at 10 weddings and 24 funerals. They continued to provide 24/7 pastoral care 52 weeks of the year.

### *Deacons*

Greetings from the Deacons. We are eighteen strong and excited to get started on the many responsibilities that are on the list for this year. The Board of Deacons is an active board. Some of our responsibilities include: serving coffee and treats every Sunday, preparing communion on a monthly basis, recruiting announcers for every Sunday service, preparing welcome bags for new members and visitors, organizing the early summer potluck/ice cream social, organizing the fall welcome back potluck for the choir, securing rides to church for those who are unable to drive, sending cards to our members who are ill, sending sympathy cards as needed, and organizing the Christmas party. WHEW!

We welcome your help anytime you might like to volunteer. We especially would welcome announcers (contact Pam Lamborn), cookie or treat bakers for Sunday coffee time (sign up in fellowship hall), and kitchen cleaner uppers on the Sundays that we have a Deacon's meeting (contact Yoshi Kawawa). We are a hard working and joyful group, and we would be delighted to welcome anyone would like to step in to lend a hand.

Anne McCoy and Karen Combs (co-presidents, 2019)

## Head to Toe Hygiene Pantry

The Head to Toe Hygiene Pantry's January opening date was on Saturday, January 19 which started with icy streets and parking lots along with bitterly cold temperatures and blustery winds. We served 255 families who got out in the miserable weather—some who had to walk to the Pantry— in need of the hygiene items. The inside of the Pantry was filled with our loyal, hard working volunteers from UCC as well as 19 incredible volunteers from Mending Place at South City Church. They have been volunteering at the Pantry for 7 years and contribute \$3,600/year to the Pantry.

We were recently informed that the Pantry has been awarded \$500 from the KAKE Wins for Kansas program. This is a partnership between DeVaughn James Injury Lawyers and KAKE. A story about the Pantry will run on KAKE during the 10:00pm news on Sunday, February 10. The segment will also be hosted on their website after it airs: <http://www.kake.com/category/314589/wins-for-kansas>. There will also be a live interview on KAKE on Thursday, February 14 around 11:40 or 11:50am.



## Outreach

The pictures below speak volumes about the joy of helping newcomers to our country!

Thanks to referrals from Gammon teachers, the “angels” on our 2018 UCC Christmas tree included 18 children and their parents from three families who have immigrated to the U.S. in the last two years. Each of these families are from African nations and waited many years in refugee camps for approval to immigrate.

Outreach board members were honored to be invited to their homes for the gift delivery a few days before Christmas. Their stories of prior hardships, alongside their hopes and belief in the American dream -- especially for their children -- are inspiring and filled our hearts with gladness.

To those of you who purchased gifts for them – they will remember your gesture and generosity for years to come! UCC made many new friends this Christmas season.



**universitycongregationalchurch**

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316.634.0430 [www.ucchurch.org](http://www.ucchurch.org)

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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**FEBRUARY CALENDAR**

2/06/19 - 10:00am - Women's Guild

06:00pm - Wednesday Night Alive

2/12/19 - 06:00pm - Habitat for Humanity - fellowship hall

2/13/19 - 06:00pm - Wednesday Night Alive

2/14/19 - No Pantry Workday

2/16/19 - 09:00am - Pantry Open

2/17/19 - 10:45am - Board Meetings

2/20/19 - 06:00pm - Wednesday Night Alive

2/21/19 - 11:30pm - Men's Luncheon

2/24/19 - 09:00am - Growth Committee

2/25/19 - 06:30pm - Council Meeting

2/27/19 - 10:00am - Larksfield Class

2/27/19 - 06:00pm - Wednesday Night Alive

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***Among Our Own***

Esther Doner, Carol Lee Smith, Leon Greene, Esther & Bill Sullivan, Jon Romain, Skip Nelson, Sue Raymond, Mark Campbell (Widmer's Nephew), and Becky Hurt,