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 [Forward](#)



## e-pistle for the week of March 8, 2018

### **Minister's Message**

#### **Dear First Congregational Family,**

This is my first full week as your new settled pastor. As I listen, pray, think, and dream about our new life together, I am filled with thanksgiving for all the ways you show up for each other. Wow! I witness dedication, passion, creativity, wisdom, compassion and intelligence all wrapped up into one conversation, one meeting, and one worship service. All of these are signs to me (and I hope to you) that God is here with us, leading us, alongside us and within us as we nurture and grow our beloved community.

Be sure to join us at New Creation this Sunday for our final Lenten program to prepare us spiritually for the coming Holy Week. There will be a thoughtful and engaging session about the way of nonviolence; a great opportunity to bring a friend to church. See the note below for more information.

I look forward to getting to know you. So please feel free to reach out to me and let's talk! I hope to see you on Sunday.

With a grateful heart,

- Pastor Sarah

### **What's the Buzz!**

Mark your calendar for 12:15 on March 18 for our next session. More information to follow!

### **Lenten Breakfasts**

The Southeastern Association of the Indiana Kentucky Conference is once again sponsoring a series of 'Men's Breakfasts' on Saturday mornings at 8 a.m. at different churches. Each breakfast includes a meal, a devotion and an offering that will go to support a ministry of the host church. **We are hosting the Men's Lenten Breakfast on March 17!**

Lots of hands are needed to get the work done. Randy Walker is coordinating the effort and has the various tasks organized but could use additional help. So men, plan to attend this early morning event at the church, and see Randy if you can lend a hand in preparing, conducting, or cleaning up.

### **Worship for Sunday**

#### **Adult Class - 9:45 a.m.**

Our topic this week will be " Hope for Peace - Part I."

Meet in the library.

#### **Traditional Service - 11:00 a.m.**

**From the Shadows to the Light.** This will be Pastor Sarah's second Sunday with us! Join us for her message of love!

#### **New Creation - 5:30 p.m.**

As we continue our Lenten theme of discipleship in New Creation, we focus this Sunday on Jesus's message of non-violence based on Luke 22:49-53. Our worship service will feature a variety of videos presenting various aspects of non-violence. After our service we'll gather for a soup supper, followed by discussion and activities around how we can best follow Jesus in fostering non-violence in our culture. Please join us in exploring this timely and relevant topic as we work to build God's Beloved Community.

## What's Happening at FCC

### Mission of the Month, One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS)

2017 was a year of unprecedented disasters—Hurricanes Harvey, Irma, and Maria; heavy rainfall in California followed by deadly landslides; extreme heat and wildfires; tornadoes in the South and Midwest; earthquakes in Mexico and on the Iran/Iraq border; flooding and monsoons in Bangladesh and India; drought and famine in the Horn of Africa. It went on and on. But if you contributed to One Great Hour of Sharing last year, you were there helping. OGHS provides funds to react quickly to disasters around the world. Working with local organizations world-wide, OGHS has infrastructure in place to respond rapidly whenever and wherever disaster strikes. We don't know where the need will come this year, but we can be sure there will be new disasters affecting communities that will need our help. OGHS is one of the UCC's "5 for 5" offerings, which FCC has committed to support. While small donations are always welcome, this is one offering that we urge you to support generously. Be there helping with the next crisis by donating now. Use the special envelopes or put OGHS in the notation line of your check. Thank you.

### Pantry Items of the Month

During March we are collecting the following items: rice, juices, peanut butter and bar soap

### Easter Lilies

Easter is right around the corner. Please order a plant (Lily, tulip, hyacinth) to help celebrate Easter. The cost per plant is \$10.00. Order forms will be in the bulletin or call the church office. Any questions see or email Sally Coombs at [sallysews73@gmail.com](mailto:sallysews73@gmail.com)

Deadline: March 25, 2018

Display : April 1, 2018

### Plymouth Rockers

The Plymouth Rockers will meet on March 27 at noon, at the church. We'll have a bring-our-own lunch, followed by a program. Come and bring friends

### Monthly Food Donations

Good News! While our food donations were down substantially in February, they have already picked up in March. Good going!

### **Family Promise Clothing Drive, March 2-18.**

Looking forward to spring? Starting to get those spring clothes ready? Here's an opportunity to do an inventory of your clothes and do some good in the process. Pick out those gently used clothes you no longer wear, bring them to church in white kitchen trash bags or put them in bags provided in the cloak room, drop them in the white laundry baskets and help out Family Promise. **No shoes or accessories, please.** Thanks in advance, because every bag helps Family Promise receive a \$5 clothing voucher from Goodwill to help families with emergency clothing for children or even work apparel for adults. Below are important dates to keep in mind:

Friday, March 2 to Sunday, March 18: **Congregations collect clothing.**

Monday, March 19-Saturday, March 24: **Congregations deliver clothing** to the FPGI Day Center at 1850 N. Arsenal Ave., Indianapolis, IN 46218 between 9:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m.

### **Pastoral Care**

Please contact Rev. Sarah at (386) - 478-9012 or [PastorSarah@fcindy.org](mailto:PastorSarah@fcindy.org).