
 [FirstCongregationalUCCIndy](#)

 [Forward](#)



## e-pistle for the week of May 10, 2018

### **Minister's Message**

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

What is the purpose of prayer? I've been praying off and on my whole life, at least since I was a young child. At first I was taught that prayer was talking to God. I learned the Lord's Prayer and the bedtime prayer "Now I lay me down to sleep and pray the Lord my soul to keep." As I've gotten older, I've come to experience prayer also as a way of a listening to God. For me, some of the most profound moments of connection to God come out of a time of praying in silence. For me, prayer is a way to clear my mind of the clutter and to tune into the deep peace that comes when we rest in the heart of God.

I am not always just listening to God...I still talk to God, too. I try to take more time to listen to God these days. In worship on Sundays, we say many prayers out loud. And we also listen, we also make time for silence during worship as part of our prayer. For some this time of silence might be too short and for others the silence might be too long. I've had more than one person who is visiting our church tell me it reminds them of a Friend's Meeting House. It might be the way the sun shines through the sanctuary windows and bathes us in God's light. It might be those moments of silence, too. In our New Creation service, we pray using candles, lighting them to honor the joy or concern that has been lifted up. When we are collecting joys and concerns during our worship, I feel as though the silence in-between the sharing is just as sacred, just as holy, just as God-filled. I am

grateful that we are comfortable with many ways to pray.

Today I am giving thanks for all the ways that we pray...with words, with silence, with music, with tears, with candles, laughter, with our whole selves.

With a prayerful spirit,

Pastor Sarah

### **CPR Certification**

Our tenant, MHCNS, is offering a CPR course for their teachers and parents. They have graciously offered us the opportunity to participate as well. Those who desire to take the class should complete step 1 below, and notify Cheryl or Pastor Sarah so the nursery school can get a good headcount.

**The two-part certification must be taken in this order:**

- 1) Heartsaver CPR First Aid AED Online is \$30 and registration is at <https://elearning.heart.org/course/9>. The class is a total of 6 hours and easily broken into time modules, but must be completed before the next step;
- 2) June 8, 2018 Skills Class with an instructor is approximately \$70 (cash, check or charge to Joe Martin; actual amount will depend on how many take the class) - 9:30-11:30 a.m.

### **Worship for Sunday**

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

This Sunday will be our annual writing of letters to alleviate hunger through Bread for the World. Meet in the library.

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

The message from Pastor Sarah will be "Esther: For Such a Time as This."

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

Join us as we gather for continued reflection and conversation about the scriptures.

## What's Happening at FCC

### Mission of the Month, Family Promise

Our congregation has been active with Family Promise for more than 20 years. We participate in the emergency shelter portion, the Interfaith Hospitality Network, housing families experiencing homelessness. All the needs that we have in our daily lives are cared for by Family Promise for around 50 families every year. The van we drive needs gas, maintenance and insurance. Bus passes are provided to the families. IHN helps families find long-term housing. AfterCare helps them keep it by providing supportive services for up to two years. I encourage you to visit their website to see all that they are doing.

“We are Family Promise because we believe in the promise - the potential - inherent in each family that enters our doors. It also refers to our promise to keep a family together, and to help the family succeed, through its most difficult time. Since 1994, our volunteers and congregations have helped over 750 families with children. We will continue with urgency to find ways to meet the needs of more families, always with the goal to one day find we are no longer needed.”

<http://www.fpgi.org/who-we-are/our-story>

This month we are asking for assistance in several ways – physical assistance with hosting, financial assistance, and your prayerful support. Our gifts of single dollar bills and loose change this month will go towards helping the organization fund their operations and programs. Larger donations are welcome and should be noted on the check or envelope  
Family Promise because every child deserves a home.

### It's Hosting Time!

We are hosting up to four families currently experiencing homelessness later this month. They will arrive evening of May 20 and stay through the morning of May 27. Please sign up to get their rooms ready for them, stay overnight, fix and serve dinner, provide evening activities for the families, be an evening host, drive the van, put the rooms back to normal after hosting week, or do laundry. It takes a village! Please see Ann Leatherman or Katie Booth. All are welcome.

### Street Sign Video!

If you missed the buzz session where we unveiled the new street sign, the presentation video from that buzz session is now on our website. It can be found in ABOUT US under OUR STREET SIGN or just click on this link:

<http://fcindy.org/our-street-sign/>

### PRIDE 2018

Anyone interested in helping to plan FCC's participation in the

PRIDE parade and festival to be held June 9, please contact  
Bob Cook 317-401-4889 or [bobcook359@yahoo.com](mailto:bobcook359@yahoo.com)

### **Pantry Items of the Month**

During April we are collecting the following items: ramen noodles, macaroni and cheese, canned fruit and laundry detergent.

### **Plymouth Rockers**

We'll meet at noon on Tuesday May 22 at the church, for lunch and a program. The program is, "A Conversation with Pastor Sarah," giving us a great opportunity to learn more. Bring your lunch, thoughts, and guests; we'll provide beverages.

### **Pastoral Care**

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