

 [FirstCongregationalUCCIndy](#)

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e-pistle for the week of May 17, 2018

Minister's Message

Dear First Congregational Family,

This coming week we are preparing to host our Family Promise guests in the church, adults and children, who are in need of support as they seek financial stability. As we know, many people are one paycheck away from an eviction. Keep our guests in your prayers as they make their home with us this coming week.

It takes significant effort to host our guests and many people are signed up to help. There are still opportunities to volunteer and the sign up board is in the church narthex. We can all be praying that our guests experience the radical hospitality of the living Christ during their stay.

For all the ways we are church and show up for one another and for our community, I give God thanks. In my experience, this is a very giving and caring congregation with a big heart for helping others. I am grateful to be on this journey with you.

On Sunday we will celebrate Pentecost, welcome new members into our Body of Christ and meet for a buzz session about how to welcome children in worship and how our church budget works. Sounds like the Spirit is moving at First Congregational...Thanks be to God!

Thankful for God's Presence,
Pastor Sarah

Save the Date! Mental Health Sunday is June 3, 2018

You are invited to join us for Mental Health Sunday to celebrate the release of *The Lifesaving Church: Faith Communities and Suicide Prevention*, by Rev. Dr. Rachael Keefe. Rev. Dr. Keefe will be preaching both worship services, leading adult education and leading an afternoon workshop with Rev. Dr. Sarah Lund.

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.

What's the Buzz! Sunday May 20

Join us for a pitch in lunch and discussion on two topics: welcoming children to our sanctuary - a 'playground' discussion, and budget education - understanding the basics of our church finances. Any questions, please contact Karen Walker.

Worship for Sunday

Adult Class - 9:45 a.m.

This Sunday's theme will be : Doing Justice " An Open Table." Meet in the library.

Traditional Service - 11:00 a.m.

The message from Pastor Sarah will be "When the Spirit Moves."

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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

Any additional Colony articles are due by EOD tomorrow. I will start on the the Colony on Friday morning.

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.fpci.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.

Bread for the World Letters

Last Sunday we collected 73 letters to our Senators and Representatives urging them to invest in and protect in key programs that will reduce hunger and poverty in the fiscal year 2019 budget. SNAP (food stamps) is the most important of these. If you were away, you may still write your letters at home and bring them this Sunday to be included in our Offering of Letters.

Solar 101 Presentation

The Green Team will host a speaker from Rectify Solar to speak on "Solar 101" on Friday, May 25th, at 7:00 PM. The topics will cover the theory and practice of using solar power on churches, businesses and residences, and the particulars of the installation this company is proposing for FCIndy. He will speak for approximately 30 minutes and be available for questions. The Green Team would like to invite all interested congregants, particularly current members of the Board of Trustees and the council. Location is TBD depending on the projected size of the audience, so please RSVP to Rich Gibson, hoot eagle@me.com

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

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.