



**F I R S T**  
**CONGREGATIONAL**  
**UNITED CHURCH**  
**OF CHRIST**

*We are a  
progressive,  
inclusive,  
spiritually alive  
servant community.*

## e-pistle for the Week of August 16, 2018

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## E-Pistle for the week of August 16th

### **Minister's Message**

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

Being church is a beautiful thing. We are the church whenever we gather, with two or three people the Bible says, we are the church. Last Saturday, four of us from our church participated in a vitality day of education offered by the Indiana-Kentucky UCC Conference. We spent the day together being church, exploring ways to encourage active engagement in the life and ministries of our church. As we talked, we realized that for us, the key is strengthening our sense of community. This feels right to me. I believe God is calling us to a time of renewing and connecting ourselves more deeply, in trust and in love, with one another. It's a time to welcome new people into our community, while at the same time nurturing bonds with people who may have called First Congregational home for a while.

We strengthen the church when we invest our time in being church, spending time together both inside the church and outside the church. So you will notice that there will be more opportunities to build community coming in the near future. My request is that you make time to join us when possible. We really want to connect in meaningful ways. We really need each other in order to be the church. This is good news. This is what it means to be the Body of Christ. This is what it means to be the Beloved Community.

I continue to be thankful for this congregation and for the privilege of partnering with you in ministry. I look forward to strengthening our bonds of connection.

With hope for tomorrow,  
Pastor Sarah

### **Worship for Sunday**

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

August 19th - Rev. Paul "Chip" Jahn, will share his experiences with the Just Peace movement and the ministry his two churches have had in peaceful pursuits.

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

Guest Preacher, Rev. Paul "Chip" Jahn will preach "Let Justice Roll and Love Be Sincere."

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

This Sunday we continue with our Star Wars series based on John McDowell's book *The Gospel According to Star Wars* and our theme of the redemptive power of love. Our focus this week will be on the relationship between Luke Skywalker and Darth Vader as Luke is mentored by Obi-Wan and Yoda to become a Jedi Knight. The powers of love and fear are on full display in all of these relationships. Please join us for this opportunity to explore "the Force" from a Christian perspective and how love guides our lives. We will view *The Return of the Jedi (Episode VI)* at 6:45 along with a light supper in preparation for next Sunday's service.

### **Adult Ed - Just Peace**

August 26 - Katie Booth will present her insights of our relationship and service with Family Promise as a prelude to the "buzz" after church that day by the head of Family Promise, Mike Chapuran.

## **What's Happening at FCC**

### **Exciting New Opportunity!**

Have you heard about Chautauqua? It's a summer retreat that gives you space for religious, spiritual, aesthetic, intellectual, and personal growth. A long-time FCC member has had such a wonderful time there, for so many years, that they decided to fund other FCC members to enjoy a week there each year. The first selectee will attend in the summer of 2019. There are applications on the bulletin board.

### **Free Concert! Sunday, August 19th**

In past summers, many of us have thoroughly enjoyed the music of the Circle City Chamber Chorus (fondly known as C4), under the direction of First Congregational's one-time choir director Doug Johnson, as they presented a free concert following their summer rehearsals at FCC. This year they have moved their rehearsals to Meridian Street United Methodist Church (5500 North Meridian St.), so they'll be presenting their free concert there on Sunday, August 19, at 4:00 PM. We at FCC are again encouraged to attend and support this excellent group of singers. The concert usually lasts about an hour, so the timing will work well for folks to drive the short distance up Meridian Street for New Creation worship at 5:30.

### **90th Birthday Celebration**

Marion Harcourt and her family invite you to celebrate her 90th birthday on Saturday, August 25th at Marquette Senior Living Community (4th Floor Card Room) from 1:00 - 4:00 p.m.

How do you know Marion? What are your favorite memories of your times together? Please bring a card filled with memories to share with her.

In lieu of gifts, Marion would appreciate a donation to First Congregational Church.

### **Installation for New Indiana-Kentucky UCC Conference Minister**

Rev. Chad Abbott gave the "Charge for the Congregation" on June 10 for Pastor Sarah's installation service supporting her, our church and the UCC as the newly nominated Indiana Kentucky Conference minister. His own installation service to that position is on Saturday, August 25<sup>th</sup> at 3:00 p.m., at Sweeney Chapel, CTS. Pastor Sarah will be providing an invocation, Wendy Baldwin will be participating as she led the search committee to fill that position, and Sean Baker and Shannon Abbott will be contributing to the music of the service. A great opportunity to come together as a conference to celebrate in the ministries of the wider church together!

### **Double Buzzes on August 26 on Family Promise Hosting**

Whether you've been involved with FCC's Family Promise hosting already or are new and wondering what it really involves, the August Buzzes are for you. We will have two Buzzes that day—one following a pitch-in lunch after Traditional worship and the other after New Creation worship at 6:45 p.m., with heavy snacks. Mike Chapuran, Executive Director of Family Promise of Greater Indianapolis, will conduct a workshop on family hosting, helping us understand better what their expectations of us are and how best to interact with our guests. Each hosting week involves at least 60 church members, and we hope everyone who participates is informed and comfortable with the experience. This is your best opportunity to refresh your understanding or learn for the first time. Please plan to attend one session on August 26 and come with your questions.

### **Choir Rehearsals Begin and Welcome New Members!**

The first choir rehearsal after summer break is Thursday, August 30th from 7:00- 8:30 pm in the second floor choir room. We welcome new members to join us. Anyone who is interested in learning more about the choir may email choir director Julie Houston at: [juliehouston@comcast.net](mailto:juliehouston@comcast.net)

### **Save the Date!**

All Church Picnic, Saturday, September 8 at 4pm. More details to come.

### **New Member Sunday!**

Make First Congregational UCC your new church home and join with others on Sunday, October 28<sup>th</sup> during the 11am worship service. Pastor Sarah is looking forward to hearing about your faith journey and welcoming you into this church family. Contact Pastor Sarah to schedule a conversation about membership [pastorsarah@fcindy.org](mailto:pastorsarah@fcindy.org).

### **Church Social Media/Website/Design Team Update**

We are blessed by a talented team of volunteers who help with church social media (Facebook, Instagram, Twitter), Website and design. Team members include Sean Baker, Angela Edwards, Josh Cody, and Pastor Sarah. Pastor Sarah leads this team and is the primary contact for members wishing to share church information on social media and the website. Thank you for helping to spread the good news about the mission and ministry of the church through the website and social media. These are popular platforms for people to first learn about our church and where most of our visitors find information about us. We want to hear from you, so please contact Pastor Sarah with your social media and website updates.

### **Green Team Tip**

Do you use refillable water bottles and avoid plastic?

### **FCC Solar Project!!!**

The First Congregational Green Team has launched a fund drive to install solar panels. We're planning to raise \$60,000 by September 1<sup>st</sup>. To give this effort a boost, Rich Gibson has pledged to match all contributions, dollar for dollar, up to \$20,000. Simply write "solar panels" on your check. If you'd rather pledge, or even donate shares of stock or mutual funds, we can accommodate that, too. Please contact Rich Gibson, [hooteagle@me.com](mailto:hooteagle@me.com), 770-548-5217 (cell) or 317-735-2895 (home) for details. Thanks!

### **August Mission of the Month: Greater Indy Habitat for Humanity**

Celebrating 30 years of providing strength, stability, and independence through home ownership, in 2017, 5650 GIHH volunteers built or rehabbed 26 homes and repaired 63. A study by the Sagamore Institute revealed that Habitat homeowners benefit in many ways. Chronic housing-related illnesses decrease. 71% of homeowners started, completed, or plan to complete higher education or professional training. Homeowners end or reduce their dependence on public assistance programs like Public Housing Assistance, Utility Bill/Energy Assistance, Supplemental Nutritional Assistance (SNAP), Temporary Aid for Needy Families (TANF), and aid to Women, Infants, and Children

(WIC).

FCC has supported Habitat for over 20 years financially and through volunteer hours on builds. Please give generously in August to support Greater Indy Habitat. Single dollar bills in the offering plate will go to Habitat. For larger amounts, please use the Special Offering envelopes noting "Habitat" or put that in the notation line of your check. Thank you!

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

During August we are collecting the following items: beans, canned peaches, canned pears, jelly and jam, and bathroom tissue.

### **Pastoral Care**

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

## **This Week at First Congregational**

<b>Sunday, August 19</b>	<b>5:30 p.m.</b>	New Creation
<b>Sunday, August 19</b>	<b>6:45 p.m.</b>	Movie: Return of the Jedi (+ light supper)
<b>Tuesday, August 21</b>	<b>7:00 p.m.</b>	Outreach & Service Board
<b>Wednesday, August 22</b>	<b>7:30 p.m.</b>	New Creation Planning
<b>Thursday, August 23</b>	<b>11:45 a.m.</b>	Women's Lunch
<b>Thursday, August 23</b>	<b>1:00 p.m.</b>	Men's Lunch
<b>Thursday, August 23</b>	<b>7:00 p.m.</b>	Choir Rehearsal
<b>Saturday, August 25</b>	<b>11:00 a.m.</b>	Bell Practice
<b>Saturday, August 25</b>	<b>1:00 p.m.</b>	Marion Harcourt's 90 <sup>th</sup> Birthday (see above)
<b>Saturday, August 25</b>	<b>3:00 p.m.</b>	IKC Installation of Rev. Chad Abbott, CTS Chapel
<b>Sunday, August 26</b>	<b>9:45 a.m.</b>	Adult Class – Just Peace
<b>Sunday, August 26</b>	<b>11:00 a.m.</b>	Traditional Service

**Sunday, August 26**

**12:30 p.m.**

Family Promise Workshop with Mike Chapuran

**Sunday, August 26**

**5:30 p.m.**

New Creation

**Sunday, August 26**

**6:45 p.m.**

Family Promise Workshop with Mike Chapuran