





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 2, 2018

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E-Pistle for the week of {August 2nd}

Calendar

Minister's Message

Dear First Congregational Church Family,

The church garden is showing signs of growth, with the skin of the cherry tomatoes turning from green to red. The teachers are back on campus preparing the Meridian Hills Pre-School and Kindergarten for students. As summer begins its dance into fall, we notice signs of new activity and change around us. Along with these changes come growth and opportunities to be challenged. Will the tomato taste sweet? Will the children make new friends? Will this new season be a blessing?

As people of faith, we lift our prayers for all who are in seasons of new beginnings. For teachers and students, for families of all kinds, for volunteers offering extra support in the schools, we pray for a new school year filled with learning, joy, growth, and flourishing. May this season of our lives be a blessing for us, no matter where we find ourselves on life's journey...may we experience the blessings that come with knowing we are infinitely and unconditionally loved by God.

Blessings,
Pastor Sarah

Worship for Sunday

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

August 5 & 12 - Continued discussion of "Just Peace" and Just Peace Church process.

Traditional Service - 11:00 a.m.

Pastor Sarah will be preaching on Speaking the Truth in Love.

New Creation - 5:30 p.m.

At New Creation worship this Sunday we'll reprise a fun activity from several weeks ago – "Church in a Bag". If you missed it, come this time for a new experience of worship. If you got to enjoy it the first time, come again for more fun with scripture. And be sure to stay after worship for the first film in our Star Wars series, *Revenge of the Sith*, at 6:45 (food will

be provided). Our worship series based on John McDowell's Gospel According to Star Wars begins August 12.

Adult Ed - Just Peace

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

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.

"Chain Saw" Work Day - Saturday, August 18th, 9-Noon

The honeysuckle has taken over the edges of our drive way, parking lot, and other areas. We are going to take out as much as we can, and we plan to have a chipper onsite to make mulch out of all the wood debris. There are also several other outdoor and indoor cleaning jobs that need attention. Let's make this a fun time of sharing fellowship and sweat equity, even if your role is to simply help with refreshments. In particular, we are in need of chain saws, and their people. If you can come or have questions, please contact Wendy Baldwin or fill out the sign-up sheet in the Narthex.

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.

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 6:30 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.

Green Team Tip

Avoid chemical fertilizers on lawn and garden. Avoid bug sprays because our bees are dying.

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 1st. 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, 770-548-5217 (cell) or 317-735-2895 (home) for details. Thanks!

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!

If you have questions or want to help with this ministry, please contact Sandy Wood csjlwood@att.net 317-863-8238 (home) or 317-225-6206 (cell).

Pantry Items of the Month

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

UCC Keep Families Together Special Offering:

In light of the current situation at our southern border, the UCC has created a special fund to provide assistance to the families fleeing violence in Central America and seeking asylum in the United States. Those of us who ask "What can I do?" when faced with this humanitarian crisis can contribute through the United Church of Christ. You can go to http://www.ucc.org/keep_families_together (underline in the space between words) and donate online or write a check to First Congregational Church with "Keep Families Together" in the notation line. If you donate online, please identify yourself as a member of our church. The above-listed website is also an up-to-date source of information and answers many questions for those concerned about this situation.

Pastoral Care Coverage for August 6-9

Pastor Sarah is taking a few days of vacation to see her grandmother in Missouri and will be away from Monday - Thursday, August 6-9. During this time, Rev. Worth Harman will be available for pastoral care and can be reached at his cell 317-417-0806 or email whartman@westminstervillage.com

This Week at First Congregational

Sunday, August 5	5:30 p.m.	New Creation
Wednesday, August 8	7:30 p.m.	New Creation Planning Team
Thursday, August 9	1:00 p.m.	Men's Lunch
Sunday, August 12	9:45 a.m.	Sunday Adult Class
Sunday, August 12	11:00 a.m.	Traditional Service
Sunday, August 12	5:30 p.m.	New Creation