





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 July 12, 2018

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Message from the Office

Dear First Congregational Church Family,

As I complete my first week as your new Administrative Assistant, I can already tell this is a community that cares. You care about your environment. You care about your history and the legacy you leave for the future. You care about your community. You care about those outside of your community. As someone who has a family, a yoga and health business, and is an ordained clergy invested in issues of health and justice, I hope my work here will also embody your culture of care.

I am grateful to be a part of such a community and look forward to more caring connections and communications with you as I continue in this role. I hope you will see the church office as a welcoming space where we can share some tea and conversations as we get to know one another better.

With Gratitude,
Shannon Abbott

Worship for Sunday

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

John 10:10; How has the history of the Just Peace movement in the UCC changed from 1985 to today? Read about Clackamas UCC. Begin a list of what FCC might want to do in the future to support Peace and Justice. See further description below.

Traditional Service - 11:00 a.m.

The message from Rev. Dr. Pat Larracey will be "Dancing in Church". Our music will be provided by pianist Sean Baker and the bell choir led by Bob Cook.

New Creation - 5:30 p.m.

Throughout July New Creation worship will focus on the variety of faith traditions that make us all one church.

Another Event This Sunday - 3:00 p.m.

"If You Knew Me, You'd Love Me"

The choral group Ripple Effect presents uplifting music to build acceptance and understanding in today's society.

at Friedens UCC 8300 S. Meridian St. 3 PM

Presented by Friedens' ONA Team

For more information, contact Bob Cook.

Adult Ed - Just Peace

Is FCC a Just Peace Church?

Becoming a Just Peace Church will be the focus of the Adult Education classes for the five Sundays in July. Truth is, FCC has in the past and is already now doing many things that promote peace and justice. But we have not yet taken the formal step of writing a Just Peace Church covenant and declaring ourselves to be a Just Peace Church via a congregational vote. FCC - which often takes a lead in UCC initiatives - is a little behind. According to a list from http://www.ucc.org/just_peace_churches, there are at least 162 UCC churches that have declared themselves to be a Just Peace Church. Four of those churches are in the Indiana-Kentucky conference:

1. First United, Rising Sun, IN

2. Zion UCC, Henderson, KY
3. Shalom UCC, Lafayette, IN
4. Zion UCC, South Bend, IN

Isn't it time that we joined them? Not so fast - there is a process and a time of discernment (though I'm liking your enthusiasm!). For the past several months the Adult Education class has been exploring the interrelated topics of peace, nonviolence, Shalom, and justice. All of that study and discussion has been good preparation for beginning to look in earnest about becoming a Just Peace Church. For five Sundays in July, we will look at the process and what other churches have done. Come join us!

For more information and lots of suggested resources, begin at http://www.ucc.org/justice_just-peace. Also, we are in the process of forming a Just Peace Committee to lead this effort. Please let Nancy Dickinson or Pastor Sarah know if you have an interest in being on the committee.

What's Happening at FCC

Pastor Sarah Vacation: Monday, July 9 through Sunday, July 15

For pastoral care during that time please contact Carol Sowle at (317) 496-9732 or casowle@gmail.com

Sunday, July 29, 12:00 - Spiritual Explorers invite you to a labyrinth experience

Last August, FCC's Board of Worship & Faith began a new group, called "Spiritual Explorers." It meets in the library one Sunday a month, soon after the 11 AM service, to explore different spiritual practices, such as lectio divina, journaling, music, and poetry. During each meeting, members report briefly on what they've experienced on their own during the previous weeks, and the group decides on which spiritual discipline to focus during the following month.

On July 29, after a brown-bag lunch following traditional worship, Spiritual Explorers will meet at 12:45 at St. Luke's United Methodist Church (100 W. 86th St.) to walk its (outside) labyrinth. All FCC members and visitors who want to walk the labyrinth are welcome. Please inform either Pastor Sarah, PastorSarah@fcindy.org, or susanna-judith rae, at her new email address, sjrae@iu.edu, if you want to become a Spiritual Explorer, walk the labyrinth on July 29, or both. Betty Brandt, director of St. Luke's Spiritual Life Center, encourages labyrinth walkers to wear sunscreen and sunhats and to carry an umbrella.

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, Underneath it all

This mission provides underwear and school uniforms for children in IHN/Family Promise Aftercare. This helps families getting back on their feet stretch their budget through having fewer school clothes to purchase. You can help by doing any of the following:

1. **Buy underwear/socks/shirts/pants** in any size from **child size 4 to adult** - boys or girls. Put in the white laundry baskets in Narthex during July. Sports bras & small size boys & girls underpants are particularly desired.
2. **Donate new or gently used pants, shirts, skirts, or jumpers**-all sizes from child size 4 to adult. Shirts must be collared in any solid color, without decoration or logo. Pants, skirts, or jumpers must be a solid color (tan, navy or black) with no decoration.
3. **Donate \$ in July to buy uniforms or underwear in-** change, dollar bills and checks designated **Underneath It All** in the memo line will help. We will buy clothes with the money donated.

I know it seems early, but school starts again Aug 1st for many schools, so new uniforms will be needed soon. The Aftercare Program of the Family Promise/IHN program helps those who get housing remain housed. Our past donations have provided each child in the Aftercare Program at least 1 full new uniform including underwear and socks. This is very much appreciated by the families and by Family Promise, so please continue to be generous.

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 July we are collecting the following items: juice, pasta, canned meat, and shampoo.

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

Please contact Pastor Sarah at (386) - 478 - 9012

For Monday, July 9 through Sunday July 15, please contact Carol Sowle at (317) 496-9732 or casowle@gmail.com

This Week at First Congregational

Thursday, July 12	1:00 p.m.	Men’s lunch – at Arni’s
Thursday, July 12	7:00 p.m.	Music Support Team
Saturday, July 14	10:00 a.m.	Bell choir rehearsal
Sunday, July 15	9:45 a.m.	Adult Class – Just Peace
Sunday, July 15	11:00 a.m.	Traditional Service – Pat Larracey
Sunday, July 15	5:30 p.m.	New Creation
Wednesday, July 18	6:00 p.m.	Personnel Committee
Wednesday, July 18	7:30 p.m.	New Creation Planning
Sunday, July 22	9:45 a.m.	Adult Class – Just Peace.
Sunday, July 22	11:00 a.m.	Traditional Service
Sunday, July 22	5:30 p.m.	New Creation