





**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 26, 2018

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## E-Pistle for the week of {July 26}

## Calendar

### **Minister's Message**

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

Last Sunday the sermon message about “Sacred Pause” (from the story of Jesus taking his disciples to a deserted place away from the crowds in order to pray) reminds us of the invitation from God to rest, to take Sabbath, to take time for the sacred. This is the last week of July, and as the summer months flow by, and we look to beginning the month of August, we reflect on the swift passage of time. I am grateful for regular times of “sacred pause” throughout my day. These “sacred pauses” are good for individuals and for groups and communities, like the church. In the month of August some of our church activities will take a “sacred pause” so that we can take time for reflection and rest. This is wise and faithful stewardship of our time. We are human after all, and not God. There is only so much we can do before we need to stop to rest, and spiritually refuel. What are you going to do this week for your “sacred pause”? Maybe there is something you can say “no” to, so that you can say “yes” to God’s invitation for “sacred pause.” Sometimes our “no” can be just as faithful as our “yes.”

With prayers for rest and renewal,  
Pastor Sarah

### **Worship for Sunday**

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

July 29: Peter 3:15; present the 9 step process for becoming a Just Peace Church; review our lists of things FCC already is doing and our list of what we might want to do; review suggested actions for ongoing Peace Making from the "Just Peace Church Handbook"

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

First Congregational Member Lianna Campos Preaching this Sunday!  
Pastor Sarah will lead worship while we welcome to the pulpit for the sermon and message for all ages at the Traditional 11am service First Congregational member Lianna Campos. Lianna serves as an active member and offers her leadership on several committees as well as serves on the Indiana-Kentucky Conference Southeast Associate Committee on

Ministry. This Sunday Lianna will be preaching on the gospel story from John 6:1-21 about the feeding of the 5,000, reflecting on the theme "When You Are Enough." Lianna is discerning a call to ordained ministry in the United Church of Christ as a preacher and teacher, so we embrace her and offer her support on her journey of faith.

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

For many of us music is a primary avenue of spiritual connection to God. So this Sunday our focus will be on singing and listening to the music of New Creation. Please join us for a good old hymn... well, "song" sing and bring your requests of familiar (and maybe unfamiliar) songs from our songbooks. And be aware of our upcoming August series based on John McDowell's Gospel According to Star Wars: Faith, Hope, and the Force. Our first film, *Revenge of the Sith*, will be shown right after New Creation on August 5 in preparation for our first service in the series on August 12. Stay tuned!

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

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

August 19 - Rev. Chip Jahn, pastor of two IKC churches. will present his experiences of leading two Just Peace congregations.

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**

### **Music Update**

June 10 was Nick Fennig's last Sunday serving as the organist for our church. Over the past few years, Nick provided inspiring and moving music for our traditional worship service, as well as helped lead our music ministries. We wish him all the best as he moves forward in his journey, offering our prayers and hopes for his future success. His exceptional talents and generous, kind spirit will be greatly missed. The music committee is working on interim plans and will be making recommendations to the personnel committee for moving forward. If you have any questions, please contact Pastor Sarah.

### **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. We're about to roll out more information on applying and being selected, so stay tuned!

### **This 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. 86<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:PastorSarah@fcindy.org), or susanna-judith rae, at her new email address, [sjrae@iu.edu](mailto: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 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, [hoot eagle@me.com](mailto:hoot eagle@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](mailto: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: 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](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 or at [pastorsarah@fcindy.org](mailto:pastorsarah@fcindy.org).

## **This Week at First Congregational**

**Sunday, July 29**

**12:15 p.m.**

Spiritual Explorers Brown Bag Lunch in

<b>Sunday, July 29</b>	<b>12:45 p.m.</b>	Mayflower Room
<b>Sunday, July 29</b>	<b>5:30 p.m.</b>	Meet at St. Luke's UMC for Labyrinth Walk
<b>Wednesday, August 1</b>	<b>7:30 p.m.</b>	New Creation
<b>Thursday, August 2</b>	<b>11:00 a.m.</b>	New Creation Planning Team
<b>Sunday, July 29</b>	<b>9:45 a.m.</b>	Witness & Welcome Board
<b>Sunday, July 29</b>	<b>11:00 a.m.</b>	Adult Class – Just Peace
<b>Sunday, July 29</b>	<b>5:30 p.m.</b>	Traditional Service
		New Creation