




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 June 21 , 2018

 [FirstCongregationalUCCIndy](#)

 [Forward](#)

[Calendar](#)

Minister's Message

Dear First Congregational Family,

One of the beautiful aspects of our life together is that God has invited us to partner in exploring ways we can help bring hope to people in need of healing, specifically as relates to mental health. I am thankful that God calls us to share our gifts with each other, even if these gifts are a result of suffering and hardship. I have learned a lot from difficult times in my life. These challenges shape who I am and how I am called to serve the church as a minister and mental health educator.

This Sunday I am serving the wider church's mental health ministry as a guest of Kirk in the Hills Presbyterian Church in Bloomfield Hills, Michigan. This invitation came last year when they were planning a series of Sundays to raise awareness and educate members about mental health. After reading my book *Blessed Are The Crazy: Breaking the Silence About Mental Illness, Family and Church*, they invited me to come to help the church learn ways they can help be welcoming, inclusive, supportive, and engaged with people who

have mental health challenges and their families. To learn more about the church, click here: <https://www.kirkinthehills.org/>

While I will miss being with you all this Sunday, June 24, I am looking forward to my time on Sunday with Kirk in the Hills...I always feel blessed by the people I meet and stories they share. Thank you for supporting this important mental health ministry to the wider church. I trust that you will enjoy hearing from the Rev. Nathan Wilson from Christian Theological Seminary and the IndyStar as he shares with you a thoughtful message on Sunday. Please extend to him a warm welcome on my behalf.

I also am happy to share with you a recent interview I did for a podcast about faith and mental health by two friends in Columbus, IN. We talked about my family's history of mental illness, the recent celebrity deaths by suicide, my definition of hope, and how excited I am to be serving as pastor of First Congregational. Take a listen here: <http://revealingvoices.com/>

I am so grateful to be on this journey with you all. I am thankful that God has brought our paths together to partner, with God's help, to offer hope and healing to a hurting world.

With hope,
Pastor Sarah

Worship for Sunday

Adult Class - 9:45 a.m.

The theme this Sunday will be Biblical Hope for Justice in Public Policy. Meet in the library.

Traditional Service - 11:00 a.m.

The message from guest Preacher Rev. Nathan Wilson will be Rev. Dr. Sarah Lund will be "The Future Ain't What It Used To Be".

"If you are longing for something constant in life, how's this: Things are rapidly changing! The question is how do we live -- individually, socially, congregationally -- amidst the changes? That's what we'll explore, sometimes in lighthearted ways, on June 24. Join in -- you may even find it not that scary."

(Nathan Wilson is an ordained Disciples minister currently serving as director of communications at Christian Theological Seminary and coordinator of the Faith & Values section of The Indianapolis Star.)

New Creation - 5:30 p.m.

The gathering this week will be related to and lead into the movie being shown after that night - "Eyes of Tammy Faye"

Movie Night at 7:00 PM

Even if you can't make it to the New Creation service (but what a great lead in opportunity, so please do!), come join us for "Eyes of Tammy Faye" - movie and discussion of the life and work of Tammy Faye Bakker in the Mayflower Room.

What's Happening at FCC

Saturday, June 30th, 9:00 - #FamiliesBelongTogether

Individuals who wish to participate in the #FamiliesBelongTogether rally in Indianapolis are invited to car pool from the church on Saturday, June 30 at 9:00am and we will leave the parking lot at 9:15am. The rally begins at 10am and is taking place at the Birch Bayh Federal Building and United States Courthouse. This is an opportunity for individuals to put their faith into action and express their support of keeping immigrant children together with their parents/caregivers. This event is not officially sponsored by the church and does not represent the views of the congregation as a collective body. If you have questions, please contact Pastor Sarah.

Saturday, June 30th, 2:00 - Young Adults - Bowling!

The young adult group have scheduled to meet at the Woodland Bowling Center at 3421 East 96th St. at 2:00 next Saturday. For more information, please contact Lianna Campos (317-954-1601).

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!

July 1: Peace is Possible video; definition of Just Peace; look at two covenants - one brief and one extensive - from two UCC churches; begin a list of what FCC is already doing.

July 8: Ezekiel 37:26; Look at St. Peter & Trinity UCC; review our list of what we are already doing; what are the 10 Just Peace Making practices?

July 15: 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

July 22: Ephesians 2:14; read about Union Congregational UCC and note their covenant; take a look at direct action as a peace making strategy.

July 29: 1 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"

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.

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, hoot eagle@me.com, 770-548-5217 (cell) or 317-735-2895 (home) for details. Thanks!

Mission of the Month, Strengthen the Church

Our mission of the month for June is Strengthen the Church. It goes to seed new churches that minister to people on the margins who would never be reached by a church. It helps established churches begin projects working with refugees and immigrants. It also funds creative ideas experimenting with new ways Christian millennials are gathering. Your support of this offering will fulfill our commitment to creating a more just world.

Pantry Items of the Month

During June we are collecting the following items: pudding, Jell-O, canned vegetables, soup, and toothpaste.

Short term office expectations

Please keep in mind we will not be creating a July Colony, due to the staff shortage. Thank you! Any questions, please call Karen Walker or Pastor Sarah.

Pastoral Care

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

This Week at First Congregational

Sunday, June 24	9:45 a.m.	Adult Class – Biblical Hope for Justice in Public Policy
Sunday, June 24	11:00 a.m.	Traditional Service - Rev. Nathan Wilson: The Future Ain't What It Used To Be
Sunday, June 24	5:30 p.m.	New Creation
Sunday, June 24	7:00 p.m.	Movie Night - Eyes of Tammy Faye
Tuesday, June 26	6:00 p.m.	Prayground Exploratory Team meeting
Wednesday, June 27	7:30 p.m.	New Creation Planning
Thursday, June 28	11:45 a.m.	Women's lunch –at West side LePeep
Thursday, June 28	1:00 p.m.	Men's lunch – at Sahn's Ale House
Saturday, June 30	2:00 p.m.	Young Adults – bowling at Woodland
Sunday, July 1	9:45 a.m.	Adult Class – Just Peace
Sunday, July 1	11:00 a.m.	Traditional Service
Sunday, July 1	12:30 p.m.	Worship & Faith
Sunday, July 1	5:30 p.m.	New Creation