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FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

e-pistle for the week of September 20, 2018

Minister's Message

Dear First Congregational Church Family,

These past few days have been rich and filled with God's Spirit of mercy as I serve the wider church mentoring young pastors in the Bethany Fellows Project. These pastors serve churches across America and are in need of support, guidance, and encouragement. We are in San Antonio, Texas at the Oblate School of Theology and Renewal Center.

While walking the gardens, I met a young priest from Sri Lanka who studying here and has worked as a peacemaker with the Tamils. As you know, Rev. Chip who serves as a pastor in the Indiana-Kentucky Conference, was apart of a peace keeping mission in Sri Lanka. The need for peace continues.

As we praying about and study the Just Peace process for us, let us lift up in prayer

the world's deep longing for peace. Whether it be inner peace or outer peace, whether it be across the world or in our own homes...may our hearts and minds be led by God's deep peace that calls to us from the deep.

With peace and love,
Pastor Sarah

Worship for Sunday

Adult Class

For Just Peacemaking Sunday we will be looking at a UCC statement entitled, "General Synod pronouncement and proposal for action on the United Church of Christ as a "Just Peace Church". This statement expands on the historic 1985 General Synod pronouncement declaring our denomination a Just Peace Church. What does this mean for First Congregational Church as we commit ourselves to just peacemaking? Just peacemaking is a big calling. What parts of this call of Jesus for us to be peacemakers speaks to us and our church today?

Traditional Service - 11:00 a.m.

Worship led by Rev. Worth Hartman and members of FCC's Just Peacemaking Team.

New Creation - 5:30 p.m.

This Sunday we're continuing our exploration of God's Radiant Light as it shines through ministries dedicated to helping families and communities. As we finish up another week of serving Family Promise, it seems fitting to celebrate FCC's long-standing dedication to this ministry as an opportunity for us to truly reflect God's light. Other ministries, such as Exodus, Habitat for Humanity, Humane Society, and other such transformative endeavors, will also get a review and prayer of thanks in New Creation worship this Sunday. Join us in this celebration of how God's realm of justice is realized one family at a time.

Who is My Neighbor?

A Tiny House aims to provide big solutions for South Carolina LGBTQ community



When LGBTQ individuals near the campus of Clemson University, in the areas of upstate South Carolina unexpectedly find themselves without a home or a place to feel safe, Peace Congregational United Church of Christ will be ready to meet them.

Congregation members and the Clemson community are working side-by-side in the design and construction of a tiny house, a mobile residency for a person in the LGBTQ community who is no longer welcome in at home. The \$20,000 project is in progress with the help of a \$10,000 Grastop Grant from UCC Justice and Witness Ministries. The first occupant could be ready to find refuge there in January.

[Read more via UC News.](#)

What's Happening at FCC

2018 Indiana AIDS Walk - Sunday, September 23

The Eugene and Marilyn Glick Indiana History Center (450 West Ohio Street). Registration runs from 11:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. Step Off at 1:00 p.m. and lasts until 2 p.m. If you wish to walk with us, please wear your GOD T-shirt and register at the table. Sean Baker will be our contact person at the Walk that day. Call him (317-506-9614) when you arrive to find the location of our group.

Songs at 7171

Remember to join us next Saturday, September 29, at 7:00 PM for a cabaret evening of song, snacks, and socializing. Julie Houston and friends will be in the Mayflower Room to share their talents and repertoire, all for the benefit of FCC's Special Music Fund. Come for the music, stay for the donations!

Choir Rehearsals - New Members Are Welcome!

Choir rehearsals are on Thursdays from 7:00- 8:30 p.m. 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

GOD Logo

We have been enjoying increasing the exposure of our "GOD" logo design - from t-shirts and bumper stickers to the street sign, the bulletin, the website, and now the e-pistle! We have heard many positive comments from members and visitors - it is very eye catching, memorable, and meaningful. Moving forward, there is a motion coming soon to the council to adopt this as the official logo for the church - so we can simplify and build consistency across all our communications - such as this epistle, the colony, letterhead, envelopes, etc. This would replace all of the orange 'fcc' logo materials we have been using. We invite any comments or questions about this - please contact Pastor Sarah, Bob Cook (chair of Witness & Welcome) or Karen Walker (chair of council) and they will be sure all of the board members and the council members hear all your thoughts and consider them as the motion comes forward. This comment period will be open until September 23rd. For a reminder of the origin of the logo, here is a link to the video shared at a buzz earlier this year: <http://fcindy.org/our-street-sign/>

Chautauqua Update

September 30th is the last day to submit your application to Shannon for an expenses-paid week in Chautauqua, NY in the summer of 2019. Don't miss out on this golden opportunity! See bulletin board for details or contact Rich Gibson, Nancy Dickinson, Worth Hartman, Chuck Kiphart, or Pastor Sarah if you have any questions.

New Member Sunday!

Make First Congregational UCC your new church home and join with others on Sunday, October 28th 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.

Pastoral Transition Team

As Pastor Sarah continues to serve the congregation in her first six months, the church has a Transition Team to offer guidance, support and to ensure open and transparent communication between the pastor and the congregation. The members of this team are Randy Walker, Liana Campos, Jim Rutherford and Nancy

Dickinson. Please feel free to be in touch with the Transition Team with any feedback, concerns, or comments that you wish to be addressed during this important time of transition and new beginnings.

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

Congress is considering a revision to the Endangered Species Act that would gut many of its protections. The public comment period close on Sep 27th. Please write, call, or email your Senators and member of Congress. You may also post your comment directly through <http://regulations.gov>, or such groups as Environmental Action.

September Mission of the Month is the UCC Mental Health Network.

The United Church of Christ Mental Health Network works to reduce stigma and promote the inclusion of people with mental illnesses/brain disorders and their families in the life, leadership and work of congregations. Its stated values are

- Jesus has shown us the way to embrace those who are marginalized by society and advocate with and for them.
- Every person has value and worth and deserves love, dignity and respect.
- All people, regardless of mental health or disability status, have something to contribute to the life, leadership and work of their congregations.
- Community matters. A sense of belonging is important to us all, whether we face mental health challenges ourselves or not.
- True compassion in ministry and relationships is based on equality.

The Network also helps churches such as FCC that are considering becoming a W.I.S.E. Church (Welcoming, Inclusive, Supportive, Engaged) by providing resources and support to reach that goal and to do so by embodying the love of Jesus in the

process. During the month of September your loose dollar bills in the offering plate or larger amounts in the Mission Offering envelopes marked "Mental Health Network" or checks with that notation will go to support its work.

Pantry Items of the Month

During September we are collecting the following items: soups, beans, rice, mac'n'cheese, paper towels, and body wash.

Pastoral Care

While Pastor Sarah is away serving the wider church as a mentor to young pastors in the Bethany Fellows Project and for a family wedding from 9/17-9/23, you may contact Rev. Worth Hartman for pastoral care at (317) 417-0806 or whartman@westminstervillage.com.

Pastor Sarah will return to the office on Tuesday, 9/25, and may be contacted at (386) 478 - 9012 or at pastorsarah@fcindy.org.

This Week at First Congregational

Sunday, September 23	5:30 p.m.	New Creation
Wednesday, September 19	7:30 p.m.	New Creation Planning Team
Thursday, September 27	11:45 a.m.	Women's Lunch
Thursday, September 27	7:00 p.m.	Choir Rehearsal
Saturday, September 29	7:00 p.m.	Mayflower Room Cabaret Benefit
Sunday, September 30	9:45 a.m.	Sunday Adult Class
Sunday, September 30	11:00 a.m.	Traditional Service
Sunday, September 30	5:30 p.m.	New Creation

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