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# FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

e-pistle for the week of September 27, 2018

## Minister's Message

**Dear First Congregational Church Family,**

Thanks to all the hearts and hands that helped to support our Family Promise ministry last week, an important ministry that helps homeless children and adults by housing them in our church. A special word of thanks to our church's co-coordinators Ann Leatherman and Katie Booth who have faithfully served for 18 years. We pray that the children and adults who experience our hospitality felt encouraged as they seek security and more hopeful futures.

In the coming weeks we will look at our ability to continue to support Family Promise as a host church. It takes anywhere from 60-70 people filling volunteer roles (many times individual people filling in multiple roles). As our church membership has changed over the last two decades, we are realizing that it is time to reevaluate our resources. We support Family Promise in multiple ways in addition to being a host church. We collect donations of

food and clothing, as well as make monetary donations. Please join me in prayer as we are called to explore how best to support Family Promise in the coming months. I trust that we will make an informed decision that honors our congregation and seeks to fulfill our mission.

Blessings,  
Pastor Sarah

## **Worship for Sunday**

### **Adult Class**

TBD

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

Pastor Sarah will preach on "Justice Leads to Joy."

Scripture: Esther 7:1-6, 9-10, 9:20-22

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

While God's Radiant Light is always around and within us, shadows can also envelop us when light dims. This Sunday in New Creation shadow puppets will help us explore ways in which shadow and the absence of light can be both discouraging and enriching. Come and join us as we listen to and experience God's and ours about light and darkness.

### **Who is My Neighbor?**

Formally incorporated in 2005, *Mano en Mano | Hand in Hand* is the "go-to" agency in Downeast Maine for Latino/Latina, immigrant, and farmworker issues. As a 2010 Neighbors in Need grant recipient, Mano en Mano provides a wide variety of direct services in English and Spanish. The three general programmatic areas are:

- Educational Services & Scholarships comprise the bulk of our programming and the heart of our mission. From free English classes, to college scholarships, to one-on-one tutoring and after school support, Mano en Mano believes that education is a tool that can make dreams possible and realize social justice.
- Outreach & Community Events ensure that Mano en Mano can effectively reach and serve their constituency while building bridges between various and diverse communities.
- Affordable Housing provides farmworkers who want to settle in Milbridge, ME with an opportunity to live somewhere that is safe, decent, and designed with their



needs in mind.

Program Director, Bethany Woods shares “when we first started adult English classes several years ago, the goals were based on language acquisition. But the project has evolved into much more, providing social resources that are not often readily available to new immigrants.” Ms. Woods further states, “Our adult students attend every week after long days working, exhibiting a high level of dedication to their own progress. The social activity and community development that has grown from these English classes is just as significant. Even more importantly, our students have become resources for one other, offering a supportive environment to encourage each other's learning and look out for their fellow peers.”

In service to their clientele, *Mano en Mano | Hand in Hand* believes in removing barriers within their community. This philosophy is similar to the core values of United Church of Christ: *changing lives, continuing testament and extravagant welcomes*. To learn more about Mano en Mano visit <http://www.manomaine.org/>.

## **What's Happening at FCC**

### **Parent Education TONIGHT - An Invitation from Meridian Hills School**

Join Us for our first Parent Education Night on Thursday, September 27th from 7:00-9:00pm. Sarah Cook, a former Meridian Hills parent and current Carmel Cooperative teacher will be introducing us to the wildlife we can find in and around our neighborhoods. An Indiana Naturalist, Sarah will be teaching us how to identify our local habitat so we can teach our kids! Don't miss out!

### **Songs at 7171**

Don't miss the fun this Saturday, September 29, at 7:00 PM! An evening of song, snacks,

and social time will all come together with Julie Houston and friends. Hope to see everyone there!

### **Chautauqua Update**

Sunday, 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.

### **Crop Walk - Sunday, October 2**

One way we can be a JUST PEACE Church is to walk to help stop hunger locally and worldwide. Be a walker, help sponsor a walker or donate through church at [www.crophunger/walk.org/Indianapolisin/FCindy](http://www.crophunger/walk.org/Indianapolisin/FCindy). Look for the CROP WALK table in the narthex for more information or see Sally Coombs. [sallysews73@gmail.com](mailto:sallysews73@gmail.com) or call 317-446-2853.

### **Buzz - October 7**

Join us on Sunday, October 7 to celebrate World Communion Sunday and God's call for us to be a people of generosity. Pastor Sarah will lead worship with guest preacher Rev. Bruce Barkhauer, Disciples of Christ minister and the Director of the Center for Faith and Giving. Rev. Barkhauer will inspire us and guide us as we dig deeply into what the Bible says about faith, money, and giving. This information will help us as we launch our new 1857 Society to celebrate people who include First Congregational Church UCC in their will. Join us following 11am worship for a Buzz session to learn more about the new 1857 Society and to learn more from Rev. Barkhauer and from CTS Trustee and attorney Ted Waggoner who will be available to answer questions about estate planning.

### **Flowers Needed**

Flowers have a way of bringing beauty into the worship service. There are several empty Sundays on the Flower Calendar located on the bulletin board by the garden doors. Will you sign up for a Sunday? The flowers can be for any occasion and come from the florist, store, or your garden. The cost is \$25 from our florist. If you have any questions, please email Sally Coombs at [sallysews73@gmail.com](mailto:sallysews73@gmail.com) or call 317-446-2853. You can also let Shannon know the occasion at [shannon@fcindy.org](mailto:shannon@fcindy.org) or call the church office at 317-257-5397.

The following dates are currently available in the Flower Calendar:

October 7, 14, and 21

November 11 and 18

December 9, 16 and 30

### **New Member Sunday!**

Make First Congregational UCC your new church home and join with others on Sunday, October 28<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto: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**

Don't forget to adjust your thermostat and turn your water heater temperature down when leaving on vacation.

### **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**

Pastor Sarah may be contacted at (386) 478 - 9012 or at [pastorsarah@fcindy.org](mailto:pastorsarah@fcindy.org).

## **This Week at First Congregational**

<b>Sunday, September 30</b>	<b>5:30 p.m.</b>	New Creation
<b>Wednesday, October 3</b>	<b>7:00p</b>	Trustees Meeting
<b>Wednesday, October 3</b>	<b>7:30 p.m.</b>	New Creation Planning Team
<b>Thursday, October 4</b>	<b>1:00 p.m.</b>	Men's Lunch
<b>Thursday, October 4</b>	<b>7:00 p.m.</b>	Choir Rehearsal
<b>Sunday, October 7</b>	<b>9:45 a.m.</b>	Sunday Adult Class
<b>Sunday, October 7</b>	<b>11:00 a.m.</b>	Traditional Service
<b>Sunday, October 7</b>	<b>12:15 p.m.</b>	Foundation Buzz and pitch-in
<b>Sunday, October 7</b>	<b>5:30 p.m.</b>	New Creation

7171 N. Pennsylvania St.  
Indianapolis, IN 46240