



FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

THE PILGRIM COLONY

December 2018

Pastor's Reflections

You are invited to join me on a special Advent journey this December every Sunday as we seek to engage the ancient wisdom of the prophet Micah, to “love mercy” (Micah 6:8). Worship this season takes on a special meaning as the nights grow colder and light fades faster. We turn to the inward light, first ignited by the spark of our Creator. Take time during Advent to kindle the light within. I believe this will be an important spiritual practice in growing our ability to “love mercy.”

Imagine a world where people regularly exercised their moral muscle to “love mercy.” Imagine our church being known in the community as a church that “loves mercy.” What would that look like? What types of mission and outreach would show our neighbors that we are serious about loving mercy? What types of worship services would reflect our commitment to “love mercy”? How does our journey to become a Just Peacemaking church (see draft covenant, pg. 7) align with our calling to “love mercy”?

Join me this Advent in prayer, in conversation, in wondering about how we answer God's call in our lives and as a church to “love mercy.” I trust that this journey will take us to deep and bright engagements with the holy. Thank you for joining me on this sacred journey of Advent.

Blessings,
Pastor Sarah
(386) 478-9012 or pastorsarah@fcindy.org

Moderator's Reflections

For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven: a time to be born, and a time to die; a time to plant, and a time to pluck up what is planted. - Ecclesiastes 3:1-2

This has been a month of strong and mixed emotions on many fronts – including within our church. We had a productive meeting (“AMP”) in October for planning our calendar for next year. It was wonderful to have over 25 people working together with many ideas that have come up throughout the year. At the same time, there is recognition that we need to grant ourselves the time and space to develop these ideas. Even activities core to our identity are stretched and need an opportunity for re invigorating, so we are taking sacred pauses in both hosting for Family Promise and in our weekly New Creation worship. I feel very deeply for both of these programs and struggle with ‘pausing’ them. I know there are many others who have stronger ties and investments in these programs and are feeling this pause acutely, and I hope we can all acknowledge and hold each other through those emotions. One part of the emotion I understand is the anxiety that if we pause, we could lose those programs completely. We are continuing support of Family Promise and alternative worship and we need to trust ourselves in continuing to lift them up. I believe it is precisely this pause and

taking the opportunity to reimagine them with fresh perspectives that will make the next generation of these programs even stronger. As with pruning, I may cringe at cutting back any living growth, but I know that the trimming will allow the new growth to be even stronger and healthier. I am excited to think about how these branches will grow and blossom in the coming seasons!

Karen Walker
317-319-8950 or Karen.e.d.walker@gmail.com

Sunday Adult Class

This group will continue and conclude the study "Reclaiming Jesus: A Confession of Faith in a Time of Crisis" during December. The specific studies will be:

December 2 - #6 Truth is Morally Central to Our Personal and Public Lives
December 9 – #7 Christ's Way of Leadership is Servanthood
December 16 – #8 Go into All Nations Making Disciples
(December 23 - No Class)
December 30 – #9 Change the World Through the Life and Love of Jesus Christ

In January we will be discussing articles from Christian Century or Sojourners. If you have a recommendation, please get in touch with Nancy Dickinson (dickinson.nls@gmail.com).

All classes meet in the Library (room 212) at 9:45 a.m. All are welcome!

New Creation Worship's Sacred Pause

After much thought, deliberation, and discussion by the New Creation Planning Team, the Worship & Faith Board, and Church Council, New Creation Worship will take a "sacred pause" with its last weekly service of 2018 being held on December 2. This decision has not come easily, but with Pastor Sarah's leadership we are experiencing the hand of God leading our church down new paths of spiritual renewal. Our last New Creation Worship service will focus on celebrating the many gifts that we have received through its spiritual nurturance, along with some time to grieve a loss many of us will keenly feel.

With the blessing of the Worship & Faith Board, a new planning team will begin work on the development of a new concept and avenue for alternative worship. New ideas and perspectives will contribute greatly to the process of discernment and development, so we hope others will participate in this endeavor. It's our hope to have something new to offer during 2019 to both our church members and to those who have yet to find us, beginning with a Lenten series. We eagerly anticipate the opportunity to infuse a variety of new thoughts and creative ideas to shape the design and content of that series. Beyond Lent, let's see where this new journey takes us.

New Creation has been a vital part of our church's worship experience for the better part of 12 years, so we hope many will participate on December 2 in the parlor at 5:30 as we begin our sacred pause.

- Alice Rutherford, New Creation Team Leader

Call to Service

"Here am I; send me!" Isaiah 6:8"

Pantry Items of the Month

During December, we are collecting the following items: Muffin mix, Noodle, Cereal, and Laundry detergent. - Betty Schnur

December Mission of the Month – Christmas Fund

December's Mission of the Month is the Christmas Fund, one of the "5 for 5" offerings of the United Church of Christ that FCC has committed to support. The Christmas Fund, formerly known as the "Veterans of the Cross Offering," gives congregations and members an opportunity to reach out in loving compassion, providing assistance to those who have so faithfully served our churches and now find themselves facing unexpected financial needs. Most of these retired pastors served in times and places where their retirement benefits are much smaller than those of pastors retiring today. These funds enable the Pension Board's Ministerial Assistance program to provide, on behalf of the whole Church, pension supplements, health premium supplements, emergency grants for health or unexpected travel expenses, and Christmas "Thank You" gift checks to individuals and families in need.

In 2017 UCC congregations contributed \$1,500,000 to this special offering. This year the theme is "The Light is Surely Coming," and the goal is \$1.7 million to help support these ministries of light and love. Please give generously this month to carry on this work in the coming year. Watch for the weekly bulletin inserts for stories and figures on how the money is used and the impact it makes.

Mitten Tree and More!

This Christmas season we will be collecting the usual mittens, gloves, scarves, hats, and socks for the refugees who are served by Exodus Refugee Immigration. But in addition we will also collect new or gently-used winter coats for all ages as well as blankets. Winter is a difficult time for refugees, who often come from warm climates and are not prepared for Indiana weather. Having to supply a whole family with warm outerwear is a burden, and we can help with our generous donations. Put small items on or under the "Mitten Tree" and coats and blankets in the Exodus box in the coat room. Monetary donations in the offering plate marked "Exodus—Winter" are welcome too. Donations will continue to be accepted after Christmas as well. Thank you.

- Outreach & Service

October Food Donation

October saw member of First Congregational donating 82 pounds of nutritious food to our less fortunate neighbors. The Northside Food Pantry, housed at Second Presbyterian Church and staffed by its members and volunteers receives the food, organizes it, and then distributes it in an efficient operation. It's a good fit for our donations. Your donations do make a difference, so please keep them coming, placing them in the baskets in our narthex next to the coat room.

The Board for Mission and Service

Do Justice, Love Mercy and Walk Humbly Theme for 2018-2019

God has told you, O mortal, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with your God?

As we continue to explore this invitation by Micah 6:8, in the Advent season we will examine together the theme of "Love Mercy." This theme will guide our worship experience as we prepare to celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ, the child of God who shows us how to love mercy. Reflecting on how we can be people who love mercy will lead us to a time of spiritual reflection and growth.

Hanging of the Greens



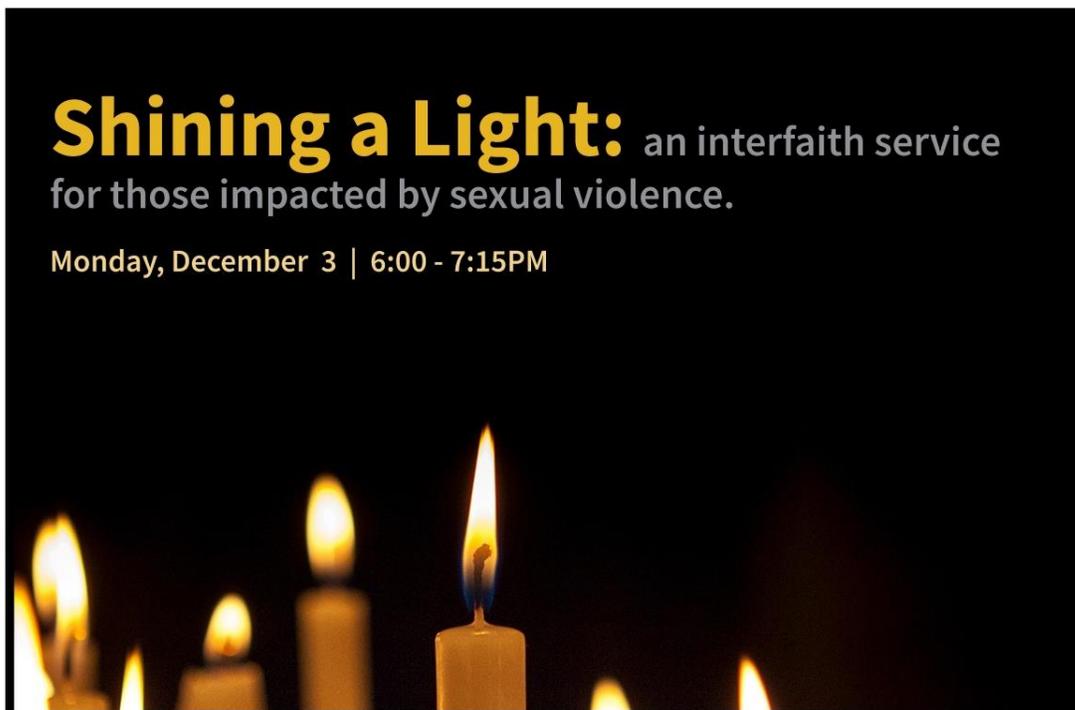
Come one, come all to help decorate the parlor, narthex and sanctuary for the Advent Season on Saturday December 1st from 10:00AM-12:00PM. Any questions, email Sally Coombs at sallysews73@gmail.com or call 317-446-2853.

The Playground Opens December 2nd

Beginning December 2nd, the Christian body begins celebrating Advent--a time for us to prepare our hearts, our minds, and our spirits for the coming of the Christ child. At First Congregational Church UCC, one way that we are leaning into this concept of welcoming is by opening the Playground. Located in the front right in the sanctuary, the Playground offers children and families a space just for them and allows all to fully engage in meaningful worship. The Playground will have soft foam mats along with liturgically and age appropriate worship materials. The Playground will initially be installed as an experiment, and will be evaluated for permanency after an estimated six to twelve months. As time goes, we commit to asking for and listening to feedback from the congregation to best support everybody's faith development and worship experience, and to best welcome our children and families. With the full support of the Worship and Faith Board, the FCC Mental Health WISE Team, and the Church Council, the Playground will be available for use beginning December 2nd. As we prepare our hearts to welcome the Christ child, let us prepare a dedicated space in our sanctuary that welcomes all children.

For feedback, questions, concerns, and/or comments, please talk to Lianna Campos (lcampos33@gmail.com, W&F Board Representative to Council) or Nancy Dickinson (dickinson.nls@gmail.com, Chair of W&F Board) or Pastor Sarah (pastorsarah@fcindy.org).

Shining a Light Interfaith Service, December 3rd, 6pm



Shining a Light: an interfaith service for those impacted by sexual violence.

Liturgy of Lament, Protest and Blessing for survivors of sexual assault and harassment, and all impacted by sexual violence.

MONDAY, DECEMBER 3, 2018 | 6:00 - 7:15 P.M.

Trinity Episcopal Church
3243 N Meridian St.
Indianapolis, IN 46208

Participants include:

The Rt. Reverend Jennifer Baskerville-Burrows
Bishop, Episcopal Diocese of Indianapolis

Dr. Leah Gunning Francis
Vice President for Academic Affairs and Dean of the Faculty, and Associate Professor of Christian Education and Practical Theology, Christian Theological Seminary

The Reverend Dr. Sarah Lund
Senior Minister, First Congregational United Church of Christ

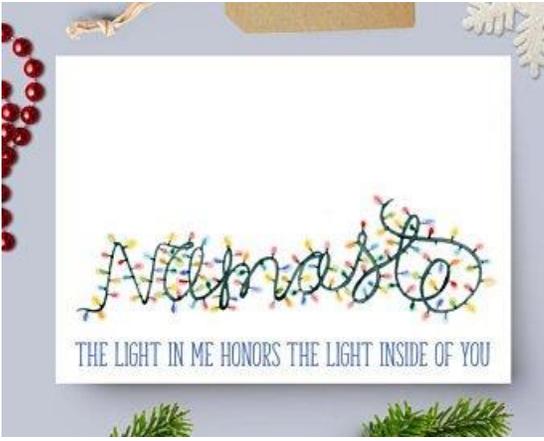
Rabbi Sandy Eisenberg Sasso
Senior Rabbi Emerita, Congregation Beth-El Zedeck

Rima Shahid
Executive Director, Women 4 Change Indiana

The Reverend Julia E. Whitworth
Rector, Trinity Episcopal Church

Indianapolis Women's Chorus & Members of Julian Center

Mental Health Team offers “Yoga for the Holidays”



In the midst of the busy-ness and the stress of the holidays, we often forget to pause in gratitude and loving-kindness for each movement, each moment, and for the light in one another. For this reason, First Congregational Church is offering another opportunity in December to pause, breathe, and move a bit slower through gentle yoga and meditation, showing gratitude and loving-kindness for our bodies, our minds, our spirits, our communities, and the Light that is to come.

You are invited to participate in Yoga for the Holidays with Shannon Abbott in the church parlor on Monday, December 17, 6:00 – 7:00p.m.

- This practice will be a gentle practice of mindfulness and movement, and will also offer the option of modifications using a chair, so all are welcome to participate.
- Please wear loose, comfortable clothing, and bring a yoga mat if you have one (If you have an extra mat, please bring one to share with someone who may not have one.)

Please email Shannon at shannon@fcindy.org for more information and to register. A free-will, gratitude offering will be appreciated.

Blue Christmas Service and Soup Dinner on Friday, December 21 at 6pm

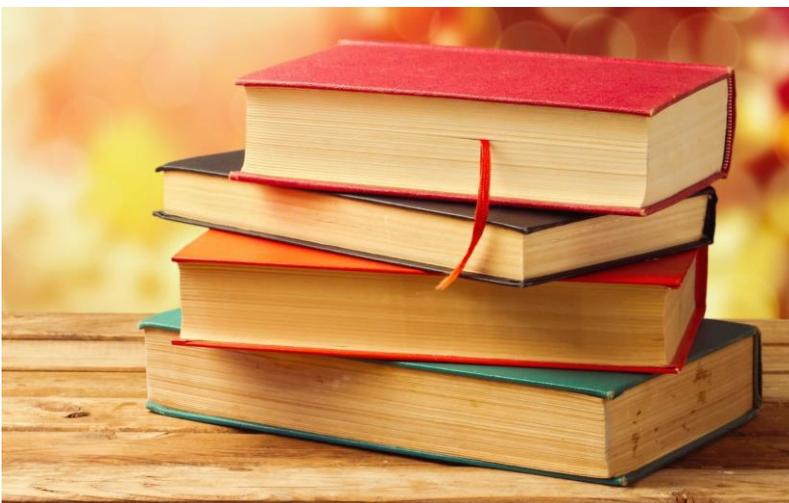


We often think of the holidays as a time of joy, but for many it is a time of loss, depression, and generally feeling “blue.” For this reason, the Worship and Faith Board is offering a Blue Christmas Service as a time of prayer, comfort, and support during a season that can be difficult for people feeling “blue.” Worship begins at 6pm in the Sanctuary followed by a light meal of soup for fellowship and conversation. – Pastor Sarah

The Book Party is Back!!

On Friday, December 14th we will read books and do activities with 2 kindergarten classes at IPS 106, 5301 Roxbury, just east of Cathedral High School. The teachers, Ms. Kormos and Mrs. Anderson formerly taught at IPS 42 where several FCC members tutored. It is a terrific way to get into the holiday spirit! We will have 2 sessions, 11:15 a.m. to noon and noon to 12:45 p.m. If you'd like to help with either session, please tell Sandy Wood - her contact info is

csjlwood@att.net or 317-225-6206 (cell phone).



Circle IV Book Discussion

Circle IV will be meeting at the home of Sue Chapman (Robin Run, 5412 Unity Trail) on Tuesday, Dec. 18 at 1:30 p.m. We are discussing Fannie Flagg's *Can't Wait to Get to Heaven*. All are welcome to join us. Feel free to carpool. For further information, contact Sue Chapman at 317-259-1806 or carolsuech59@gmail.com.

What Shall We Bring?

As we wrap up our Annual Campaign for 2019 resources, thank you to those who have responded! You have pledged to provide for First Congregational's ministries in 2019 that touch so many lives.

For those who have not yet responded, please consider the following:

1. Your pledge of financial and service resources greatly benefits FCC's planning for 2019;
2. Your pledge is an intention to give, and can be changed, either to give more or give less, based on your circumstances;
3. Your pledge is a way to bring your whole self to God and be generous with your life.

Please try to turn in your pledge by early December in order to assist our boards with preliminary planning. Pledge and service cards are available in the Narthex, and can be deposited in the basket or the offering plate. Or you can contact Shannon Abbott in the Church Office to have cards sent to you.

What shall we bring? Thank you to all who share your gifts and help First Congregational be dynamic and vital, energized to be a servant community of Jesus Christ!

- Wendy Baldwin, Stewardship Chair

The 1857 Society

The 1857 Society is off to a strong start. Several members have already reported that they are remembering the church in their wills or estate plans. Will you join us? Forms are available from the office and are being placed in the narthex and on the first floor bulletin board near the entrance. For answers to your questions see, call or email Pastor Sarah or Bill Gillette. We're excited about the enthusiasm shown for this important initiative that provides long term financial support for First Congregational.

- Bill Gillette for the Foundation

First Congregational: A Just Peace Church?

We are entering the season of Advent, preparing our minds and hearts for the coming of Christ. The prophet Isaiah spoke of a Messiah who would lead us to, "beat swords into plowshares, spears into pruning hooks and not learn war anymore". This Messiah would be called the "Prince of Peace" and usher in a "Peaceable Kingdom" where righteous and equity prevails and the "wolf shall live with the lamb, the leopard lie down with the kid." 2:4, 9:6, 11:6

The Messiah has come, lived, died, rose from the dead and is with us still. Jesus taught us to love our enemies, turn the other cheek, and calls us his blessed children as we are peacemakers. So this holy season of peace we especially need to ask; what does it mean today to be peacemakers and a church committed to just peacemaking? Throughout this year our congregation has been asking this question in Adult Ed classes, within a Just Peace Church Team, and in several worship services. Now we have a proposed "Just Peace Covenant" to consider that would strengthen our commitment to just peacemaking.

First Congregational Church, a Just Peacemaking Church. That has a nice ring to it!!

* Don't we already see ourselves as a church that cares about justice and peace?

* Aren't we a church that wants to integrate these values of Jesus, justice and peace, into our personal and congregation lives?

*How do we foster just peacemaking?

*What does that look like for our church as we move into the future with a new pastor, a new five year plan of strategic goals, a mission plan for 2019 and growing hopes as we see new people come to us? *How do we do just peacemaking in this current national climate of division, hate, mistrust, and unwillingness to compromise?

*Maybe we are a just peacemaking church already but how do we deepen our intention, clarify our process and choose specific actions in response to specific events and issues? Just peacemaking begins with an inward Journey of Spiritual Nurture including

* prayer and bible study

* theological reflection on the work of the Holy Spirit

* celebration and worship centered in the power and reality of Jesus Christ who shows us God's vision of shalom: peace, health, harmony and what that looks like lived out on earth.

Just peacemaking continues with a Journey of Education. Just peacemaking comes with no easy answers. It is messy, complicated, well intended actions may have unintended consequences. So we must talk, learn, listen to one another honestly and respectfully, honoring the range of backgrounds, attitudes, experiences that form our responses. Usually God's will is discerned corporately, as the Body of Christ, each member bringing a valuable and unique contribution. As we listen, study, question we find our own internal experts, wise ones, those among us that have some special experience, connections, and depths of understanding.

Just peacemaking results in an outward Journey of Public Witness. When we come to see a just peace policy, program, or action we need to proclaim it to the wider community. We are part of local, national and international communities. We are part of God's creation, participate in marketplaces and economies. We want the kingdom of justice and peace Jesus spoke of to be lived out here on earth. So that affects policies, politics, governments, schools and workplaces. This world of peace and justice is for all people, especially the poor, those without, those on the fringes of our wealthy country and outside it. That is why we seek a just peace in the marketplace, so that all may live in dignity.

Our just peacemaking must extend to the wider world. The prophet Isaiah calls us to be a just peace people that can be a light, model, example to all the nations so they might "learn war no more". 2:4 We must work cooperatively so weapons and arms can be turned into tools, seeds, homes, and schools at home and all around the globe.

How will we grow as a just peacemaking church? We will continue to seek God's will pray, study and publically witness:

For Just Peace in the Community- so that all may live free from fear

For Just Peace with the Earth- so that life is sustained

For Just Peace in the Marketplace- so that all may live in dignity

For Just Peace Among the Nations- so that human lives are protected.

- Worth Hartman, Just Peace Church Team Member

Just Peace Team (Draft) Covenant For First Congregational United Church of Christ

The Just Peace team formed after church members met for several months at Adult Education to review Just Peace: its principles and practices; the UCC declarations for Just Peace in 1985 and 2015; and the covenants and activities of several Just Peace churches nationwide.

Our team is tasked with helping the congregation decide whether we should declare ourselves to be a Just Peace church. As a first step, we have begun drafting a covenant for the congregation to consider. In subsequent steps, we shall make short announcements about what it means to be a Just Peace church during worship services. We shall have a Buzz luncheon in early January to discuss Just Peace. We shall present this covenant to the congregation at the Annual Meeting in late January for formal consideration and a vote to adopt it.

In drafting the Just Peace covenant, we decided that it needed to flow organically from our Statement of Mission:

We believe that we are called by Jesus to be a transforming presence for God in the world.

By this we mean that:

- Propelled by God's grace we seek to welcome and love everyone!
- Seeking to hear God's voice in today's world; we worship, learn, and grow in faith individually and as a community
- Responding to God's call for compassion, justice and care for the earth, we equip and empower each other to make a difference in our lives and the world!

Accordingly, our latest draft of the Just Peace covenant is below. We encourage you all to read this, consider it, and be ready to discuss it. If you can't wait for the Buzz, the team members (Worth Hartman, Nancy Dickinson, Jim Rutherford, Janet Selby, and Rich Gibson) will be happy to engage with you at any time!

We, the members of First Congregational United Church of Christ, do hereby covenant with ourselves and each other as a Just Peace church to:

- Follow the teachings of Jesus in realizing that there is no true peace without justice for all
- Seek, through prayer and discernment, to identify opportunities to express and embody Just Peace principles:
 - * Within ourselves
 - * In our church and community
 - * In our state
 - * In our nation
 - * In the world
- Seek God's clear call for ways to bear witness to Just Peace principles in a nonviolent way
- Engage as a congregation, partnering with other groups as seems advisable, to do So
- Periodically review our actions and those of our partners to ensure that they are effective and in consonance with the principles of Just Peace

Poinsettia Time

It's Advent Season. Please order a poinsettia(s) to help celebrate this special Season. The cost per plant is \$10.00. Any questions see or email Sally Coombs at sallysews73@gmail.com.



POINSETTIA ORDER FORM

Please reserve _____ poinsettia plants.

In honor of: _____

In remembrance of: _____

Donor's name: _____

Amount of money with this order (\$10 per plant): _____

Delivery to home-bound members? YES NO

Other instructions: _____

Place order form with check or money in the offering plate or give to Sally Coombs.
Orders may be mailed to or dropped off at the church office.

Deadline: December 16th

Display: December 23rd

Celebrating 25 Years of ONA

In January First Congregational will be celebrating our 25th anniversary of becoming an Open and Affirming congregation.



As part of our rededicating ourselves to the ONA message, we are establishing a relationship with the Indiana Youth Group. We invite anyone who wishes to become a volunteer with IYG, to speak with either Pastor Sarah or Bob Cook. We are organizing a training for volunteers at the IYG Center and hope to schedule this before the end of this year.

Volunteers can serve in various roles such as tutors, mentors, clerical workers, fund raisers, as well as a host of other opportunities. Come join the experience of providing a positive environment for the 12 - 20 year old youth of IYG. - Bob Cook

Chautauqua Update

After a period of socialization and education, a call for applicants, and a review process, the Chautauqua Team proudly announces that Cindy Cox will be our first grantee! She will attend the Chautauqua Institution for a week of her choosing in the summer of 2019, thanks to the generosity of our anonymous donor.

It is worth noting that we're sending only one person in 2019. The terms of the grant are to send one person a year, or a couple every other year—so the field is wide open for folks wanting to go in 2020!

Stay tuned—and let's all take a moment to thank the incredible generosity of our anonymous donor! - Rich Gibson

Solar Panel Update

You may recall that we got an approved agreement with Rectify Solar LLC to install solar panels at First Congregational UCC a little while back. A few weeks ago, our company contact came out to do a more detailed shade analysis of our south-facing roof. His findings were surprising and unwelcome: Rather than four rows of panels on that roof, the shading only permits one! (I know what you're thinking: Really? Tree branches and twigs in the winter-time are enough to mess up the sunshine on a solar panel? Yes, really. And it makes no sense to install solar panels that will be shaded from spring through fall, anyway. Sigh)

Our contact proposed reconfiguring the existing equipment: one row of panels on the south-facing roof, and all the rest on the west-facing roof, that long expanse facing Pennsylvania Street. Owing to embarrassment about not properly accounting for the shading, Rectify offered to reconfigure our installation with the originally agreed equipment at no extra cost.

However, discussion and analysis revealed that the new configuration would only deliver 87.5% of our desired energy. We asked for a cost estimate for enough extra equipment to bring the energy back up to that amount. The estimate came in a few weeks ago, and proved to be well within the cost we had already raised! The Green Team considered our options and unanimously recommended to pay the additional amount.

The Board of Trustees considered the Green Team's recommendation and unanimously approved it. Accordingly, we're back on track to getting solar panels, probably before spring (weather permitting). The next step is for Rectify to apply for permits from city, state and national agencies (yes, national agencies. Sigh). The permitting process may be

complete by Thanksgiving, so we may see installation underway before Christmas! What a great Christmas present! - Rich Gibson, Green Team

Meagan Johnson

Alexander Technique
for Music & Life



Introducing a new program and resource for First Congregational United Church of Christ:

Meagan Johnson

Voice educator and Certified Teacher of the Alexander Technique

Meagan Johnson is now receiving students in our former Children's Library on the second floor. She holds a Bachelor and Master's in Voice Performance with 15 years experience and ten years as a certified teacher of the Alexander Technique – a trusted, century-old method of posture re-education used by musicians, actors, dancers, and athletes to improve performance, as well as those looking for lasting relief from chronic pain, stress, and tension. In addition, the Technique has been found effective in reducing chronic low back pain and the motor symptoms of Parkinson's Disease. A future class will be offered to introduce the Alexander Technique to those interested.

You can make an appointment with Meagan Johnson by calling 217-419-6914 or by email: MJohnsonDirection@gmail.com or visit her website, www.sound-direction.com.

This resource is recommended by Pastor Sarah, the FCC Mental Health Team, and the Outreach & Service Board.

If you have any questions, or like more information, please feel free to contact: Sandy Wood or Rev. Dr. Pat Larracey, co-chairpersons of the Mental Health Team. Further, if you would like to become a part of this vital team, again, speak to Sandy or Pat.

Meridian Hills Cooperative School: Gratitude

This time of year has always been nostalgic for me. I love the “all is safely gathered in ‘ere the winter storms begin” feeling that comes with cleaning of the gardens, leaf removal, bringing in the hoses, the fountain, etc.

This year has a different twist because we will be moving mid-December and our youngest son was home in October from Hawaii to be in this house for the last time. He told his brother that leaving this time was much harder than usual. He was the little boy who used to go around the house and yard when we got home from a vacation and inspect all of his favorite places. I suspect he did that again when I wasn't looking.

This year is especially nostalgic.

Being grateful is certainly part of the November feeling and having my boys together for two weeks was a treasured gift. I don't remember if I took the time when I was your age to feel the gratitude that I should have. Likely I was too busy just getting the day-to-day done. There is so much to capture our attention these days that should be a reminder of the fragility of life. Try to find the time to be grateful.

My wish for you this month is for you to pause a moment and be reminded of your most favorite things.

Best in parenting,

Ginny Hacker, Director - Meridian Hills Cooperative Nursery School & Kindergarten

Announcements

January Colony Submission Deadline

Please have your submissions sent to Shannon by **Saturday, December 15th**.

Men's Lunch

This lunch and discussion gathering for men of First Congregational meets at various restaurants in the greater Indianapolis area. They meet every other Thursday at 1 p.m. This month they will meet on December 13th and 27th. Please contact Randy Walker at (317) 796-2081 or aa28977rwalker@gmail.com for information.

Women's Lunch Bunch

No Women's Lunch in December. Happy Holidays!

Flower Calendar

Flowers have a way of bringing beauty to 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 \$25.00 from our florist. If you have any questions, please email Sally Coombs at sallysews73@gmail.com or call 317-446-2853. You can also let Shannon Abbott know the occasion at shannon@fcindy.org or call the church office at 317-257-5397.

Financial Update

When We Give, We Reach Out With Helping Hands

Here are the financial results through October 31, 2018.

1. Current Year Actual vs Budget Summary 1/1/2018 through 10/31/2018 Using 2018 Budget C

Category	1/1/2018 Actual	- Budget	10/31/2018 Difference
INCOME	194,449	195,110	-661
M. Unrestricted Contributions	194,449	195,110	-661
M.01 Pledged Offerings	158,933	155,166	3,767
M.02 UnPledged Offerings	15,195	20,151	-4,956
M.03 Rollover Prior Year Surplus_D...	-737	-737	0
M.04 Foundation - Endowment Fund...	0	0	0
M.05 Foundation - Minister Fund Draw	18,920	20,000	-1,080
M.06. Transfer from Youth Fund	1,610	1,610	0
M.07 Other Transfers from Restr Ac...	528	-1,080	1,608
EXPENSES	205,999	220,223	14,224
A. Pastoral Leadership	97,116	102,247	5,131
B. Worship & Faith	29,695	32,850	3,155
C. Care & Connections	520	470	-50
D. Witness & Welcome	620	720	100
E. Outreach & Service	17,191	18,117	926
F. Trustees	445	363	-82
G. Administration & Operations	14,003	21,398	7,395
H. House & Grounds	42,204	39,043	-3,161
I. Miscellaneous	4,204	5,014	810
Net Difference:	-11,550	-25,113	13,563

Highlights:

October year to date results - Our finances remain tight. Expenses are exceeding income, but the deficit is smaller than what was budgeted.

- **Income is on budget.** Our total unrestricted contributions of \$194,500 are essentially on budget and are about equal with last year.

- **Expenses are \$14,000 below budget.** Some of the savings is timing only, but most of it represents true savings. The bulk of the savings is from:
 - Lower than budgeted administrative expenses;
 - Lower than expected medical insurance premiums for Pastor Sarah; and
 - Not having an organist for most of the summer.
- **Our Oct. 31 bank account balance of \$60,000 is comfortable for now.**
- **Adding it all up** - for the first 10 months:
 - Expenses exceeded income by \$11,500.
 - That deficit is \$13,500 less than budgeted, thanks to our expense savings.

The 2018 budget called for a \$57,800 deficit, to be closed by draws from the FCC Foundation. We have drawn \$20,000 to date. If current trends continue, we should be able to balance our budget with a Foundation draw that is significantly less than the \$37,800 that was authorized, which will place FCC on a firmer foundation for the future.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Jim Lootens, Treasurer
lootens.jb@gmail.com

