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FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

e-pistle for the week of November 15, 2018

Minister's Message

Dear First Congregational Family,

What shall we bring? God invites us to bring our whole selves as we seek to follow in the way of Jesus. There is no right or wrong answer to this question. The key is to listen deeply to how God is speaking to you. We invite you to explore God's invitation to be part of God's mission in the world. Join us this Sunday for a special Sunday as we bless our offerings of pledges of time, talent and treasure during worship. (There will be extra pledge cards at church this Sunday).

When we connect our passions, our energies, and our resources with God and one another...it truly is amazing what is possible. I am excited to see where God will lead our congregation as we seek to bring our whole selves to the mission and ministry of the church as we seek to be a servant community of Jesus Christ.

Blessings,

Pastor Sarah

Worship for Sunday

Adult Class - 9:45am

The Adult Class continues its study of "Reclaiming Jesus: A Confession of Faith in a Time of Crisis" this Sunday with a discussion on the topic, "Truth is Morally Central to Our Personal and Public Lives."

Traditional Service - 11:00 a.m.

Pastor Sarah will preach on "Love Offerings."

Scripture: 1 Samuel 9:5-10

New Creation - 5:30 p.m.

Thanksgiving Sunday at FCC will bring us many gifts for which to be thankful, starting with a special creative worship service in the morning. Another of those gifts will be the opportunity to engage in some spiritual renewal with Rhythm Quest in their concert/workshop at 3:00 PM in the Mayflower Room. The day will culminate with Rhythm Quest's contributions to New Creation Worship. Mike and Julian will share more of their music (hopefully with some audience participation) during our afternoon time of worship when we consecrate more of our gifts to FCC and the wider church. This special service should not be missed, so we hope many will stay after the concert for pie and worship.

From the Admin's Desk

The December Colony Deadline is TODAY! If you have an announcement or article you would like included in the December Colony, please email it to me today at shannon@fcindy.org. Thank you!

The church office will be closed November 22-23 to celebrate the Thanksgiving holiday with family and friends. Please get all bulletin and epistle announcements to me no later than 8:30 a.m. Wednesday, November 21st, and watch for the Epistle to come out Thanksgiving Day!

With Gratitude,

Shannon Abbott

What's Happening at FCC

What Shall We Bring?

We continue to ask ourselves this question as we prepare our pledges for consecration during worship this Sunday, November 18th.

Alternative Gift Event at Hoosier Village - November 18, 2:00-6:00pm

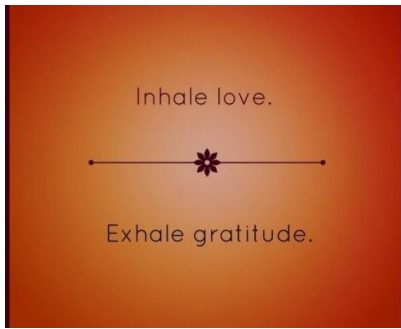
Members and friends of FCC are invited to attend this first annual event to be held at the Chapel of Hoosier Village this Sunday, November 18 from 2-6p.m. The goal of this event is to bring together non-profit agencies who serve the poor and disadvantaged and those with special needs in the Indianapolis and Zionsville area. Hoosier Village is located just off of W. 96th St., at 9875 Cherryleaf Dr., between Michigan Rd. and Zionsville Rd.

If you come to the Alternative Gift Event, you will have the opportunity to meet representatives of 12-16 non-profit agencies. You will learn about their mission and the variety of services they provide and be able to make donations in the name of your loved ones. In return for a donation, you will receive a personalized thank you card noting the agency you are supporting and the name of the person you are honoring with your gift. If you have questions, please contact FCC members Rev. Daryl or Anne Greene or Sue Chapman, who serve on the event planning team.

Songs at 7171: Rhythm Quest, November 18, 3:00pm

Music and rhythm have played a role in nearly all of the world's religions. This Sunday, November 18 at 3:00 PM percussionists Julian Douglas and Michael Rutherford will share some of the common characteristics that make music an indispensable part of many religious experiences and how we can use rhythm to make deeper spiritual connections. No one should miss this opportunity for immersion in Rhythm Quest's spiritual journey, so please plan to bring whatever drum or rhythm instruments you may have access to. See the sign-up sheet in the narthex. Learn more about Rhythm Quest at www.rhythmquest.net. And of course, no one should miss the Thanksgiving snacks that will be part of this gathering!

Gratitude Yoga & Meditation – November 21



The Mental Health Team is offering Gratitude Yoga and Meditation in the parlor with Shannon Abbott on Wednesday, November 21, 12:00-1:00p.m. This gentle practice of mindful, stress-reducing movement will also offer the option of modifications using a chair, so all are welcome to participate. Please email Shannon at shannon@fcindy.org for more information and to register. A free-will, gratitude offering is appreciated.

Culture of Mental Illness Panel at IU - November 27th

You are invited to attend the Culture of Mental Illness on November 27th from 7:00-9:00 p.m. It is located at IU's Taylor Hall, Room UC104. Pastor Sarah will be one of the panelist.



In Memory

A memorial service will be held on Friday, November 30 at 11:00 a.m. in honor of the life of Marilyn Hennegan. All are welcome to attend.

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.

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 or call 317-446-2853. You can also let Shannon know the occasion at shannon@fcindy.org or call the church office at 317-257-5397.

The following dates are currently available in the Flower Calendar:

December 9, 16 and 30

Foundation - 1857 Society

The newly formed **1857 Society** is up and running. All of us who include First Congregational in our wills or estate plans are eligible to join. Doing so strengthens the church's long term financial base, allowing us to do more of God's work. Consider if this is something of enduring value in which you'd like to participate. Commitment forms are available in the narthex or from the office.

Guided Meditation at Hoosier Village - Saturdays at 7p.m.

FCC members and friends are invited to attend guided meditation sessions at Hoosier Village. The Meditation Circle meets every Saturday (except Thanksgiving) at 7 p.m. in the Great Hall Conference Room. Use the Chapel parking lot and turn right after entering the

hallway. We are listening to Guided Imagery Meditations to let go of stress and find peace and healing. No previous meditation experience necessary. Contact Anne or Daryl Greene for more information.

Green Team Tip

An idling vehicle uses a cup of gasoline in one minute. Avoid drive-thru's (unless you're in a hybrid vehicle). If the line is long, turn off your engine while you wait, or park your car and order inside the restaurant.

November Mission of the Month is Merom Camp & Retreat Center

Merom Camp & Retreat Center, Inc. is taking steps to go "GREEN." Current goals: to install 10 motion light switches in College Hall. And to gradually install heating/cooling units (similar to what is in the church parlor) for all the buildings. Support Merom by putting a donation in the Missions envelope or write a check to FCC with Merom in the memo line.

Pantry Items of the Month

During November we are collecting the following items: fruit cocktail, spaghetti sauce, quick oats, and toothpaste.

Pastoral Care

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

This Week at First Congregational

Thursday, November 15	1:00 p.m.	Men's Lunch
Thursday, November 15	7:00 p.m.	Indianapolis Green Congregations
Thursday, November 15	7:00 p.m.	Choir Rehearsal
Saturday, November 17	7:00 p.m.	Guided Meditation at Hoosier Village
Sunday, November 18	9:45 a.m.	Adult Class
Sunday, November 18	11:00 a.m.	Consecration Sunday
Sunday, November 18	2:00 p.m.	Alternative Gift Event – Hoosier Village
Sunday, November 18	3:00 p.m.	Rhythm Quest Event
Sunday, November 18	5:30 p.m.	New Creation Worship Service
Tuesday, November 20	1:30 p.m.	Circle IV
Tuesday, November 20	7:00 p.m.	Community Interfaith Thanksgiving Worship – St. Paul's Episcopal Church
Wednesday, November 21	12:00 p.m.	Gratitude Yoga (in the Parlor)
Wednesday, November 21	7:00 p.m.	Witness & Welcome

Wednesday, November 21

7:30 p.m.

New Creation Planning Team

Thursday, November 22

HAPPY THANKSGIVING!