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FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

e-pistle for the week of November 22, 2018



Minister's Message

Dear First Congregational Family,

Tuesday night I helped to lead worship along with the Interfaith Ministerial Association for our annual Community Thanksgiving worship service. It was great to see First Congregational friends there for a powerful evening together. I was especially moved by this prayer shared by Rabbi Shelley Goldman, who serves at Congregation Beth El-Zedeck. You may want to share this prayer around your tables as you gather with friends and family to give thanks:

A Rabbinic Thanksgiving Prayer: Modim Anachnu Lach (Translation: "We give our thanks to You")

We give thanks to you that are THE ALL-MERCIFUL, our God, God of our ancestors, today and always. A firm, enduring source of life, a shield to us in time of trial, you are ever there, from age to age. We acknowledge you, declare your praise, and thank you for our lives entrusted to your hand, our souls placed in your care, for your miracles that greet us every day, and for your wonders and the good things that are with us every hour, morning, noon, and night. Good One, whose kindness never stops, Kind One, whose loving acts have never failed - always have we placed our hope in you. For all these things, let your name be blessed and raised in honor always, sovereign of ours, forever. Let all of life acknowledge you! May all beings praise your name in truth, O God, our rescue and our aid. Blessed are you THE GRACIOUS ONE, whose name is good, to whom all thanks are due.

I give thanks for each of you at First Congregational UCC and the ways we come together to support the mission of our church: to be a servant community of Jesus Christ.

With Blessings and Thanksgiving,
Pastor Sarah

Worship for Sunday

Adult Class - NO CLASS this week

Traditional Service - 11:00 a.m.

Guest preacher, Rev. John Heckman will be preaching this Sunday while Pastor Sarah is away on vacation visiting family in Minnesota for the Thanksgiving holidays. Rev. Heckman served First UCC, Rising Sun, IN from 2004 to 2013 when he retired. Prior to

-serving at Rising Sun, he worked at Raytheon Corp and Naval Avionics Center in Indy. John and his wife, Cindy, live in Greenwood, IN and have 2 children and 3 grandchildren. He is presently a clergy member on the Board of Directors for the Merom Camp and Retreat Center. Additionally, John is serving as the President of the Southeast Association.

Scriptures: John 18:33-37 & Revelation 1:4b-8

New Creation - 5:30 p.m.

This Sunday's New Creation Worship service will have a church camp feel as we do worship Merom-style. If you're uncertain about what that may look like, come and join us in the Mayflower Room. Camp songs and s'mores all around!

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.

What's Happening at FCC

#GivingTuesday, November 27th

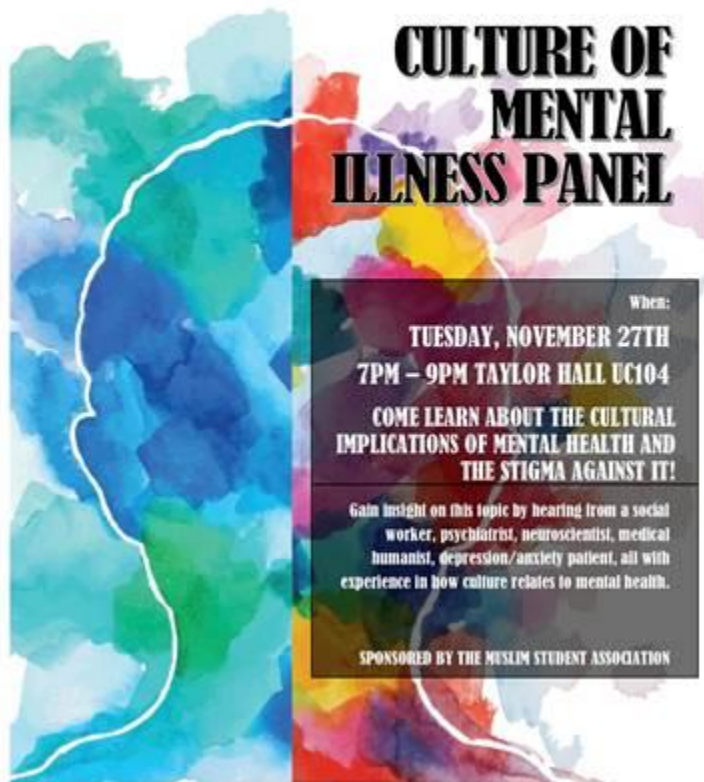
Next Tuesday, the day after Cyber Monday, we are called to embrace Giving Tuesday. It's

a day to focus on our year-end giving. While we fully honor and support our current church drive to pledge for 2019, we also consider 2018 donations to other worthy, charitable causes for which we have special feelings. Places chosen include local or national charities, social causes, education, animal welfare, the environment, and others. At First Congregational we are actively engaged in supporting the Merom Camp and Retreat Center, and the Northside Food Pantry.* We can provide payment through cash, checks, gifts of securities, credit card payments, or pledges. We could also elect to give to the Church for its normal operation or for specific items that are considered important, including those that could serve as a remembrance. Our Church Foundation is a worthy cause too, and gifts to it strengthen the future of First Congregational UCC.

*Gifts to Merom and Northside can be sent directly or sent to the Church with a notation to forward.

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 the Indianapolis IU Campus at 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.

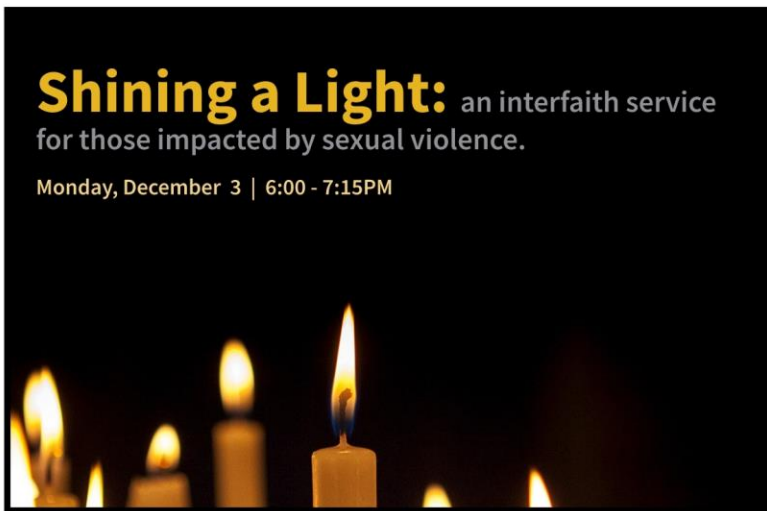


Hanging of the Greens, December 1



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.

Shining a Light Service, December 3



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

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!

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



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

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 csilwood@att.net or 317-225-6206.

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

After using the oven for baking pie, turkey, or other holiday use, leave the oven door open for a few minutes and let it help warm the air.

November Mission of the Month is Merom Camp & Retreat Center

Summer camps, Senior's Unlimited, oh my! Spring Connection, Nature's Classroom and more! And more? Confirmation Retreats, Bible 101, just to name of few. There's always some event going on at Merom over 300 days of the year! 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.

Lost & Found



Did you lose an earring at church? Do you know someone who did? Contact Shannon in the church office at shannon@fcindy.org or call at 317-257-5397 to reclaim your earring.

Pastoral Care

While Pastor Sarah is away visiting family for the holiday from November 22-25, Carol Sowle may be contacted at (317) 496-9732 or at casowle@gmail.com. After the 25th, Pastor Sarah may be reached at (386) 478 - 9012 or at pastorsarah@fcindy.org.

This Week at First Congregational

Thursday, November 22		HAPPY THANKSGIVING! Church Office Closed
Friday, November 23		Church Office Closed
Sunday, November 25	11:00 a.m.	Traditional Worship with guest preacher, Rev. John Heckman
Sunday, November 25	5:30 p.m.	New Creation Worship Service
Thursday, November 29	11:45 a.m.	Women's Lunch
Thursday, November 30	1:00 p.m.	Men's Lunch
Thursday, November 29	7:00 p.m.	Choir Rehearsal
Saturday, December 1	11:00 a.m.	Bell Rehearsal
Saturday, December 1	10:00 a.m.	Hanging of the Greens
Saturday, December 1	12:30 p.m.	Music Support Meeting
Sunday, December 2	9:45 a.m.	Sunday Adult Class
Sunday, December 2	11:00 a.m.	Traditional Worship
Sunday, December 2	5:30 p.m.	New Creation Worship Service