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FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

e-pistle for the week of October 11, 2018

Minister's Message

Dear First Congregational Family,

I want to take this time to express my deep appreciation and gratitude to our church leadership team. This congregation is blessed with several strong lay leaders who dedicate hours and hours every week to support the ministries of the church. When I first arrived here last spring, I noticed right away how many people in our church care deeply about our mission. We are a dedicated and passionate church.

As your pastor, It is a joy to see new visitors coming to worship on Sunday and then returning and expressing their desire to be part of our church family. On Sunday, October 28 we will have a special worship service where we will celebrate new members joining the church, celebrate the sacrament of baptism, and begin our Annual Campaign. I am thankful that we are a growing Body of Christ, open to welcoming new people and open to being changed by them. What a dynamic and exciting place to be. Thanks to each of you

for making space for others to experience the special blessing of being part of First Congregational.

With gratitude and joy,
Pastor Sarah

Worship for Sunday

Adult Class

Join us as we discuss "Reclaiming Jesus: A Confession of Faith in a Time of Crisis."
October 14 – Jesus is Lord: A Confession of Faith in a Time of Crisis

Traditional Service - 11:00 a.m.

Pastor Sarah will preach on "For God All Things Are Possible."
Scripture: Mark 10:17-31

New Creation - 5:30 p.m.

One of the most positive aspects of God's Radiant Light is its ability to heal and replace shame, depression, or isolation. This Sunday in New Creation we'll hear some stories of such healing in the lives of some individuals. We have seen that testimony is a powerful way to shine God's Radiant Light into the world. Please join us in this sharing.

Who is My Neighbor?

Just Economics (JE) is a small non-profit, advocacy organization whose mission is to educate, advocate, and organize for a just and sustainable local economy in Asheville, NC. JE works on issues of economic justice primarily centered on root causes of poverty including wage disparity. In 2010, Just Economics received a Neighbors in Need grant for their Economic Justice program entitled **Voices**. Voices is an eight-week leadership training program designed to help low-income people find their Voice and advocate for themselves and others.



Executive Director, Vicki Meath, tells of a student advocate named Bea as a reason that JE works tirelessly to end economic injustice. Vicki states, “Bea moved to Asheville with a very young son to escape a dangerous domestic violence situation. She was unable to live near her family for safety reasons. When Bea first moved to town, she lived on the streets with her child. Bea often felt very alone and vulnerable; sometimes they stayed at the Salvation Army, other times they slept in a doorway or under a bridge.”

Vicki further shared, “Eventually Bea moved into a public housing development. She was unable to receive certain services because North Carolina policy requires a single mother to file for child support in order to be eligible. Bea refused fearing that the man who repeatedly beat and threatened to kill her and her child in the past, would find them.”

“Bea felt trapped in a system that often seems hopeless. She joined a Voices class in 2010. She soon found community and felt inspired and empowered. Bea learned about community organizing and the slow road toward creating systematic change, but she felt like if she was not part of working for change, she did not have a right to complain about what was wrong. Soon, Bea found herself addressing Asheville City Council members in a meeting where they were discussing living wages for City contractors. She spoke eloquently during the public comment period about extending the living wage requirement to workers on City contracts. That night, City Council approved the measure! Bea continues to find her voice. Her leadership skills have blossomed. She has assisted with the *Full Plates project* which dramatizes America’s wealth disparities.”

Just Economics staffs bear witness to the core values of the UCC: *changing lives, continuing testament and extravagant welcome*. For more info on JE visit <http://justeconomicswnc.org/>.

What's Happening at FCC

Sing-Along Gathering, Sat Oct 13th, 7-8:30 pm

Please join us for fun and fellowship on Saturday evening, 10/13. Using a new songbook, Rise Up Singing, we'll sing a variety of song styles just for the fun of it! Brian Schmidt, a regular visitor at our church, donated the song books. Take a look at the song books in the Narthex, and please sign the signup if you think you can come. We are also looking for someone who can play chords on the guitar or a keyboard, to help us with the accompaniment. Questions? Contact C&C Chair, Wendy Baldwin.

Festival of Faiths, Sunday, Oct. 14, 1-5pm



Sunday October 14 from 1~5pm

Veterans Memorial Plaza



Downtown Indianapolis

The largest gathering of our diverse faith community in Central Indiana

Join hundreds of local congregations

Celebrate, Explore & Share

2018 Theme ***Compassion Through Action***

Presented by



Notes on the October Buzz

At the October 7 Buzz Session, philanthropy and church financial matters were discussed by our guest speaker. The 1857 Society was also introduced. Having a solid financial base is needed for charitable organizations such as First Congregational in order that their good works can continue through both smooth and rough times. The 1857 Society, named for the formation date of our present church, will strengthen our long term financial position. We know from experience, through the memorial gifts of earlier members, just how valuable that can be. Please consider joining the 1857 Society if your circumstances permit. And be sure to have an up to date will or trust.

Crop Walk - Sunday, October 21st

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. Look for the CROP WALK table in the narthex for more information or see Sally Coombs. 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:

October 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 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.

Family Promise Fall Clothing Drive - Oct. 5-21

Check your closets! FCC is participating in Family Promise's clothing drive from Oct. 5-

21. Bring your gently used clothing for all ages to church in white plastic kitchen trash bags and deposit bags in the tall white hampers in the narthex. (No shoes, accessories, or household items please.) Clothing will be delivered by Outreach & Service to the Day Center from Oct. 22-27 where they will be picked up by Goodwill. Family Promise guests will receive vouchers for each bag donated so they can shop at Goodwill for themselves. Please support this additional way of helping homeless families.

Green Team Tip

What responsibility do we have for our children's adequate nutrition? Is not helping them development physically and mentally investing in the earth's future?

October Mission of the Month is the UCC Offering Neighbors In Need

A recent recipient in the Indiana-Kentucky Conference of Neighbors in Need was Plymouth Settlement House in Louisville, KY. It was founded around 1910 and was next door to Plymouth Congregational Church. The church has taken leadership in offering many programs to African-Americans at the House. The 2017 Neighbors in Need offering supported their Youth Homeless Shelter, helping young people in need of a place to stay. Thank you for supporting the Mission of the Month with your donation in the Missions or Neighbors in Need envelope.

Pantry Items of the Month

During October we are collecting the following items: bread, baking mixes, canned vegetables, soup and deodorant.

Pastoral Care

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

This Week at First Congregational

Sunday, October 14	9:45 a.m.	Sunday Adult Class
Sunday, October 14	11:00 a.m.	Traditional Service
Sunday, October 14	12:15 p.m.	Worship & Faith
Sunday, October 14	5:30 p.m.	New Creation
Wednesday, October 17	7:00 p.m.	Witness & Welcome
Wednesday, October 17	7:30 p.m.	New Creation Planning Team
Thursday, October 18	1:00 p.m.	Men's Lunch
Thursday, October 18	7:00 p.m.	Choir Rehearsal
Saturday, October 20	9:00 a.m.	Annual Ministry Planning

Sunday, October 21	9:45 a.m.	Sunday Adult Class
Sunday, October 21	11:00 a.m.	Traditional Service
Sunday, October 21	2:00 p.m.	Crop Walk
Sunday, October 21	5:30 p.m.	New Creation