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# FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

e-pistle for the week of October 25, 2018

## Minister's Message

**Dear First Congregational Family,**

On Saturday, October 20, about 27 of us met for our Annual Ministry Planning retreat. We dreamed together about what God is calling us to do and who God is calling us to be for the 2019 ministry year. We began to focus our discernment, embracing the possibility that God is calling our church to be a place to belong, a place to heal and a place to love. We discussed the need to take a sacred pause from hosting two weeks a year with Family Promise and for now, turn our focus on opportunities to serve as a support church. We will use this sacred pause to pray and study alternative ways to be involved in hosting, exploring various models. We will be open to where God's Spirit leads us. We give thanks for the 20 years of faithful ministry as a host congregation, and thank Ann Leatherman and Katie Booth for their leadership as co-coordinators. We also explored other ways the church can support people who are experiencing homelessness and we learned about the Indiana Youth Group's new programs to support youth who are fleeing abusive homes

because they are rejected for being lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender or questioning (LGBTQ). Could God be calling us in 2019 as we celebrate our 25th anniversary of being Open and Affirming to focus our efforts with LGBTQ at risk youth?

The next day, we worshipped together on Sunday morning without any electricity or heat. We accepted the reality, we let go of some of what we had planned, and we adjusted. It's a micro lesson in change and how often we are forced into situations outside of our control. We cannot control the weather and natural disasters. We cannot control the natural death of a loved one. We cannot really control other people. The only thing we can control is ourselves. I am grateful for the wisdom of the 12 step program and the powerful serenity prayer. As we face changes in our personal lives, in our church, in our society, in the nation, and in the world, let's remain mindful of the wisdom that's guided generations to a deep sense of peace:

God grant me the serenity  
to accept the things I cannot change;  
courage to change the things I can;  
and wisdom to know the difference.

Living one day at a time;  
enjoying one moment at a time;  
accepting hardships as the pathway to peace; taking, as God did, this sinful world as it is,  
not as I would have it; trusting that God will make all things right if I surrender to God's Will;  
that I may be reasonably happy in this life and supremely happy with God forever in the  
next.  
Amen.

- Reinhold Niebuhr (1892-1971)

Blessings,  
Pastor Sarah

## **Worship for Sunday**

### **Adult Class**

Do you want to dialog about how to our faith in Jesus is relevant for the 21st Century? Then join us this Sunday for episode 3 of the series [Reclaiming Jesus: A Confession of Faith in a Time of Crisis.](#)

Episode 3 asks:

- What does it mean to you to be made in God's image and likeness,
- How does it make you feel that the person who is vastly different from you is also created in the image of God?
- Since all of us on this earth are created in the image of God, how do we reconcile our differences?

Come to talk - or just to listen and reflect. We are in this exploration together! Meet at 9:45 in the library, 2nd floor.

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

Pastor Sarah will preach on "God, Help Us to Love."

Scripture: Mark 10:46-52

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

As our season of Stewardship begins, New Creation Worship will take another new turn for several weeks. In our afternoon time of worship we'll be exploring the same scripture passages that are the focus of Pastor Sarah's morning sermon. This Sunday we'll hear – and see – the story of the blind beggar Bartimaeus, and consider how our life experience may intersect with his. Please join us in this time of worship combined with some study of Holy Scripture.

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

### **In Memory**

Catharine D. (Tucker) Lichtenauer, 87, Indianapolis, died Oct. 19, 2018.



Born in Hammond, Ind. on Aug. 22, 1931, Mrs. Lichtenauer was a graduate of DePauw University, where she met her husband of almost 50 years, Robert A. Lichtenauer, who preceded her in death in 2001. She received her certification as a licensed dietician from Massachusetts General Hospital and was a member of Alpha Phi sorority.

A passionate supporter of the arts, she was a trustee and volunteer with the Indianapolis Museum of Art for more than 45 years, serving as a docent and chair of the docent class, member and chair of the Fine Arts Committee, and member of the Collections Committee. She also enjoyed traveling on museum-led tours throughout Europe, the Middle East, Africa and Asia.

Mrs. Lichtenauer was a member of the Junior League of Indianapolis for nearly 60 years, serving as assistant treasurer and board member. She also was a longtime member of the Indianapolis Woman's Club and served on the board of the Washington Township PTO. She is survived by her children Jennie, Stephen and Thomas, her brother Allen Tucker, and six grandchildren.

Memorial contributions in her honor may be made to Newfields (Indianapolis Museum of Art), Attn: Advancement, 4000 Michigan Rd., Indianapolis, Ind., 46208 or online at [discovernewfields.org/give](http://discovernewfields.org/give).

**Services will be held at 2 p.m., Saturday, Oct. 27 in the First Congregational Church** located at 7171 N. Pennsylvania St., of which she was a member, with reception there following the service.

Leppert Mortuary - Nora is handling arrangements.

### **Young Adult Apple-picking and Pie-baking - Saturday, October 27**

Meet at the church to carpool to Anderson Orchard at 1:30 and then bake yummy apple pies at the church afterward. For additional information, contact Lianna at [lcamos33@gmail.com](mailto:lcamos33@gmail.com) or 317-954-1601

### **Stewardship Season**

Today begins Stewardship Season when we begin to pray about God's call to share our gifts to support the 2019 ministries of the church. Pledge cards will be collected on Thanksgiving Sunday, November 18<sup>th</sup>.

### **Shoes, Shoes Shoes**

We are collecting gently used shoes to support ZION UCC (Troy Ave) shoe drive. Place your shoes in the boxes in the narthex THANKS!

### **Fearless Dialogues - November 11, 9:00am**

Fearless Dialogues is coming to First Congregational Sunday, November 11 from 9-10:30am in the Mayflower Room, we will finish in time for 11am worship. Join Professor Greg Ellison of Candler School of Ethology and author of the book Fearless Dialogues, for a transformative, interactive experience where we engage in practicing the skills we need for having "fearless dialogues" about topics we are passionate about. This event is co-

sponsored by Worship and Faith and Witness and Welcome and is open to all who wish to be challenged and to grow.

### **Songs at 7171**

Music and rhythm have played a role in nearly all of the world's religions. On 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](http://www.rhythmquest.net). And of course, no one should miss the Thanksgiving snacks that will be part of this gathering!

### **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:

November 11 and 18

December 9, 16 and 30

### **Guided Meditation at Hoosier Village**

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**

Early voting has begun! - Please vote! But before you do, look at the climate change viewpoint of your candidates.

### **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.

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

A Tiny House aims to provide big solutions for the South Carolina LGBTQ community. When LGBTQ individuals near the campus of Clemson University, in the areas of upstate South Carolina, unexpectedly find themselves without a home or a place to feel safe, Peace Congregational United Church of Christ will be ready to meet them.



Congregation members and the Clemson community are working side-by-side in the design and construction of a tiny house, a mobile residency for a person in the LGBTQ community who is no longer welcome at home. The project is in progress with the help of a Grant from Neighbors in Need.

Thank you for supporting Neighbors in Need 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](mailto:pastorsarah@fcindy.org).

While Pastor Sarah is away November 1-6, serving the wider church at Widening the Welcome, a UCC ministry for disabilities and inclusion, you may contact Rev. Worth Hartman for pastoral care at (317) 417-0806 or [whartman@westminstervillage.com](mailto:whartman@westminstervillage.com).

**This Week at First Congregational**

<b>Saturday, October 27</b>	<b>1:30 p.m.</b>	Young Adult Apple Picking & Pie Baking
<b>Saturday, October 27</b>	<b>2:00 p.m.</b>	Memorial Service for Catie Lichtenaur
<b>Sunday, October 28</b>	<b>9:45 a.m.</b>	Adult Class
<b>Sunday, October 28</b>	<b>11:00 a.m.</b>	Traditional Service
<b>Sunday, October 28</b>	<b>5:30 p.m.</b>	New Creation
<b>Wednesday, October 31</b>	<b>7:30 p.m.</b>	New Creation Planning Team
<b>Thursday, November 1</b>	<b>1:00 p.m.</b>	Men's Lunch
<b>Thursday, November 1</b>	<b>7:00 p.m.</b>	Choir Rehearsal
<b>Saturday, November 3</b>	<b>7:00 p.m.</b>	Guided Meditation at Hoosier Village
<b>Sunday, November 4</b>	<b>9:45 a.m.</b>	Sunday Adult Class
<b>Sunday, November 4</b>	<b>11:00 a.m.</b>	Traditional Service w/Nancy Dickinson & Rev. Worth Hartman
<b>Sunday, November 4</b>	<b>5:30 p.m.</b>	New Creation