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FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

e-pistle for the week of October 4, 2018

Minister's Message

Dear First Congregational Church Family,

I am looking forward to our time together this Sunday as we celebrate World Communion Sunday, joining with the global body of Christ in celebration of God's love that makes us one. We also have the great opportunity to hear from expert in faith and giving, the Rev. Bruce Barkhauer, who will lead us in Adult Education at 9:45, preach at 11am and facilitate our Buzz Session as we learn more about financially supporting the long-term future our church. Joining him Sunday will be CTS Trustee Ted Waggoner, an attorney specializing in planning for wills and other giving options.

Please join me in becoming a founding member of the new 1857 Society at First Congregational. This is to celebrate members and friends to who commit to including the church in their giving plans such as a will. You will hear more details about the church's new 1857 Society at the Buzz Session this Sunday. I am grateful for this new way for us to

ensure that our church will be on solid ground for generations to come.

See you Sunday!

Blessings,
Pastor Sarah

Worship for Sunday

Adult Class

Join us for a bible study about faith and giving led by guest preacher, Rev. Bruce Barkhauer.

Traditional Service - 11:00 a.m.

(World Communion Sunday)

Guest preacher, Rev. Bruce Barkhauer will be preaching on "Weaving With the Thread of Hope."

Scripture: Acts 9:36-43

New Creation - 5:30 p.m.

The year 1968 saw numerous tumultuous events in our country and in others. Prayers for peace and of gratitude were expressed throughout that year for a variety of reasons. This year has again brought many reasons for prayers for peace and justice, as well as for gratitude. This Sunday in New Creation we'll celebrate World Communion Sunday with prayers for nations around the world, as we compare the events of today with those of 50 years ago. All are welcome to join us in this worship experience.

Who is My Neighbor?

Open Table & Free2Be LGBTQ Advocacy & Youth Services



Every weekend, a congregation of the United Church of Christ in Alabama opens up space for LGBTQ teens to feel safe. Ordinarily, these teens might not step foot on church property, explains the Rev. Ellen Guide Sims, pastor of Open Table UCC in Mobile, Ala., because they may have been hurt by the message of some churches that they are unwelcome.

But Open Table, with the help of an LGBT-advocacy organization in the state and a \$10,000 grant from UCC Justice and Witness Ministries, is showing these teens that there is a place where they can be themselves.

"This is a safe space we provide every Saturday for LGBTQ teens in Mobile," Sims said.

"No exceptions." The church has been able to provide that space for the last 16 months.

[Read more via UC News.](#)

What's Happening at FCC

Buzz - Sunday, October 7

At the Buzz Session next Sunday, attendees will have the opportunity to learn about the new 1857 Society and to express an interest in joining. This Society is a forming community of church members and friends who plan to support First Congregational through bequests and other legacy giving. Some of us have already specified the church in our wills, so are eligible to join as founding members. Come to this Buzz session to also hear from motivational speaker Rev. Bruce Barkhauer, and also from attorney Ted Waggoner who will answer questions on end-of-life documents. (As usual, this Buzz Session features a pitch-in lunch).

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



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.

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.

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 7, 14, and 21

November 11 and 18

December 9, 16 and 30

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 - October 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 (or transfer to those supplied at church) and deposit bags in the tall white hampers in the narthex. **(No shoes, accessories, or household items please.)** Clothing bags 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

Look over your cleaning products. Are they eco-friendly?

October Mission of the Month is UCC Offering Neighbors In Need

In 2017, one of the recipients in the Indiana-Kentucky conference of this offering used it to feed hungry children in the Elkhorn Valley Schools through the Blessings in a Backpack program.

During the school week, most of these children depend on the federal free and reduced meal program their school offers. Sometimes, the meals at school are the only ones they get. When the school closes its doors on Friday afternoon, many of these children go home to empty cupboards and empty bellies for 65 hours until they return to school on Monday morning.

Blessings in a Backpack, through donations and volunteers, fed Hoosier children in need in the Elkhorn Valley Schools. 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. While Pastor Sarah is serving the wider church for World Mental Health Day October 10 – 12, you may contact Carol Sowle for pastoral care at (317) 496-9732 or casowle@gmail.com.

This Week at First Congregational

Sunday, October 7	12:15 p.m.	Buzz w/ guests Rev. Bruce Barkhauer & Ted Waggoner
Sunday, October 7	5:30 p.m.	New Creation
Tuesday, October 9	7:00 p.m.	Outreach & Service
Wednesday, October 10	6:30 p.m.	Church Council
Wednesday, October 10	7:30 p.m.	New Creation Planning Team
Thursday, October 11	5:45 p.m.	Music Support Team

Thursday, October 11	7:00 p.m.	Choir Rehearsal
Saturday, October 13	7:00 p.m.	Sing-Along Gathering
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