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# FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

E-pistle for the Week of January 10, 2019

## Minister's Message

**Dear First Congregational,**

This may sound strange to you, but I enjoyed last night's Trustees and Church Council meetings. What was so enjoyable? As your pastor, I witnessed first-hand the thoughtful, discerning, wise, generous, caring and visionary leadership of this church **\*in action.\*** First Congregational is blessed to have dedicated and faithful leaders who help keep our finances in order and on track. This type of attention to detail and good stewardship is important ministry. We are truly blessed by the people who serve our church and I am thankful for our leadership.

I was able to share at the Trustees meeting (as we deliberated the proposed budget to fund our mission and ministries for 2019) that this budget is more than just numbers...it is a moral and missional document. As Jesus says, "Where your treasure is, there your heart will be also" (Matthew 6:21). Budgets are moral because they reflect our deepest values as

a congregation. Budgets are missional because they reflect our relationships with our neighbors. I enjoyed listening, learning, and participating in a robust conversation about what we truly value as a congregation.

I give thanks to God that in our proposed 2019 budget, it is clear that our church highly values:

- ordained and professional staff
- music ministries
- high quality creative and excellent worship
- support of our UCC covenanted partners here in the Indiana-Kentucky Conference and the National Setting
- support of local and global outreach and missions

Soon you will have the 2018 Annual Report and the proposed budget for 2019. I invite you to not only read these documents, but also pray over them. Pray about how God is calling you to support our mission and ministries, increasing our impact and witness to the world. We want to strive to be united in our discernment about where God is calling us as a church for 2019. My prayer is that our hearts will be joined together as one as the Body of Christ.

With hope,  
Pastor Sarah

## **Worship**

### **Adult Class - 9:45 a.m.**

January 13 - In January we will be discussing current events and articles from Christian Century or Sojourners.

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

This Sunday Pastor Sarah will preach on "Being Open to Change."

Scripture: Luke 3:15-17, 21-22

Sunday, we are celebrating traditional sacred organ music provided by our guest organist, Charles Manning.

Charles is well known throughout the Indianapolis musical community, and has appeared with the Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra, the Indianapolis Chamber Orchestra, the Columbus Symphony, the Missouri Symphony, the Indiana Wind Symphony, the Indianapolis Symphonic Band, the Bloomington Pops Orchestra, the Butler University Symphony Orchestra, and the St. Luke's Orchestra. In the summer of 2007 Mr. Manning was a featured recitalist at the national conventions of the Organ Historical Society and the National Association of Pastoral Musicians. His solo organ CD, "For All the Saints," was released in November of 2007.

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

#### **Just Peace Buzz - THIS SUNDAY, January 13, 12:30pm**



Please join in for pitch in lunch and discussion about the Just Peace proposed covenant. The Just Peace team provided an excellent write up in the January Colony. We will be voting on this covenant at the annual meeting and this is the key opportunity to learn more about what being a "Just Peace" church is and to discuss the proposal as a group before the annual meeting. Copies of the covenant will be available at church that morning. Looking forward to a robust discussion! Contact: Worth Hartman

#### **Open House & Parent Education Night - January 16th at 6:30 pm**

Are you looking for an early education program for your child? Meridian Hills Cooperative Nursery School & Kindergarten cordially invites you to attend an Open House and Parent Education Night on Wednesday, January 16th! Tour the school, meet the teachers, and hear more about the opportunities for learning. Open House begins at 6:30pm, and a Parent Education program begins at 7:30pm. Parent Education Night includes a presentation on values based parenting from a local therapist and is followed by a panel discussion on life after cooperative school.

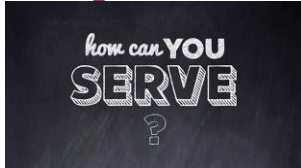
#### **Annual Meeting: Sunday January 27th at 12:30**



ANNUAL  
CONGREGATIONAL  
**MEETING**

Please let your voice be heard - come to the annual meeting to discuss and vote on the direction of our church for 2019 - we will elect our officers and board members, we will discuss and vote on our budget and endowment, and we will determine our calling to be a 'just peace' church. It is the primary meeting of the year that focuses on how ALL our resources are put to use to spread God's love! Join together for a pitch in lunch right after the service before the meeting starts.

### **Serving on a Board in 2019**



A great way to serve God and our church is to be involved with one of our Boards. These include Trustees, Worship & Faith, Witness & Welcome, Care & Connection, and Outreach & Service. We are also looking for a Vice Moderator as well as a new Financial Secretary, who is responsible for recording and depositing our weekly financial gifts. If you are not currently on a board, and you have interest in serving, please contact Wendy Baldwin, Chair of Care & Connection. We hope to have a full slate to present for approval to the congregation at our Annual Meeting on Jan 27<sup>th</sup>.

### **Green Team Tip**

Going shopping? Be sure to take your reusable shopping bags. Don't have any? They are available cheaply at most grocery stores. Can't remember to take them out of your car? When the clerk asks, "paper or plastic?", answer "Neither! Just put them back in the cart, please." Then wheel the cart out to your car and bag them there yourself.

### **January Mission of the Month is The Open & Affirming Coalition**



The Open and Affirming Coalition of the United Church of Christ has been operating for over 30 years with the responsibility for the church-wide ONA movement. As

of January 1, 2019, there are now 1,500 ONA congregations! The ONA Coalition is an independent, non-profit organization and receives no regular funding from OCWM. 75% of its operating budget relies on donations from individuals and contributing ONA churches. Thank you for your support of this Mission of the Month.

### **Pantry Items of the Month**



During January we are collecting the following items: Bread, Soup, Applesauce, and Shampoo.

### **Pastoral Care**

Pastor Sarah can be reached at (386) 478-9012 or at [pastorsarah@fcindy.org](mailto:pastorsarah@fcindy.org)

### **THIS WEEK AT FIRST CONGREGATIONAL**

<b>Thursday, January 10</b>	<b>7:00 p.m.</b>	Choir Rehearsal
<b>Sunday, January 13</b>	<b>9:45 a.m.</b>	Adult Sunday Class
<b>Sunday, January 13</b>	<b>11:00 a.m.</b>	Worship Service
<b>Sunday, January 13</b>	<b>12:30 p.m.</b>	Buzz - Just Peace
<b>Wednesday, January 16</b>	<b>7:00 p.m.</b>	Witness & Welcome Meeting
<b>Thursday, January 17</b>	<b>7:00 p.m.</b>	Choir Rehearsal