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FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

E-pistle for the Week of January 17, 2019

Message

Dear First Congregational,

As we celebrate the life and legacy of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr in the coming week, let us recall these words...

"Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere. We are caught in an inescapable network of mutuality, tied in a single garment of destiny. Whatever affects one directly, affects all indirectly."

—from 'Letter from Birmingham, Alabama Jail', April 16, 1963

Prayer: Creating the Beloved Community

O God, all people are your Beloved,
across races, nationalities, religions, sexual orientations

and all the ways we are distinctive from one another.
We are all manifestations of your image.
*We are bound together in an inescapable network of mutuality
and tied to a single garment of destiny.*
You call us into your unending work
of justice, peace and love.
Let us know your presence among us now:

Let us delight in our diversity
that offers glimpses of the mosaic of your beauty.
Strengthen us with your steadfast love and
transform our despairing fatigue into hope-filled action.

Under the shadow of your wings in this hour
may we find rest and strength, renewal and hope.
We ask this, inspired by the example
of your disciple, Martin Luther King, Jr.,
and in Jesus' name. Amen.

(Source: Creating the Beloved Community by Rev. Dr. Cari Jackson of New York City)

Worship

Adult Class - 9:45 a.m.

January 20 - 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 The Radically Inclusive Church.
Scripture: 1 Corinthians 12:4-11

What's Happening at FCC

TONIGHT!!! Public Forum on the Opioid Crisis

Please join us to learn more about the opioid crisis in our state, its impact on adults and children touched by the opioid problem, and possible solutions that could move our state forward in addressing this very serious public health concern.

Time/location: St. Luke's United Methodist Church, 100 W. 86th St. ([get a map](#)), from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m.

Hosts: Rep. Carey Hamilton (House District 87), Rep. Ed DeLaney (House District 86) and Sen. John Ruckelshaus (Senate District 30).

Speakers: Professor Aila Hoss, J.D., visiting assistant professor at the I.U. Robert H. McKinney School of Law; and Rachel Ziegler, Psy.D., HSPP, licensed clinical psychologist at the Raphael Health Center.

For more information about this forum, please contact House Legislative Assistant [Samantha Lozano](mailto:Samantha.Lozano@legis.iu.edu) at [317.232.9834](tel:317.232.9834).

Annual Meeting: Sunday January 27th at 12:30



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 – we still have openings on Care & Connections and Outreach & Service. Also, we continue to search for a Vice Moderator as well as a new Financial Secretary, who is responsible for recording and depositing our weekly financial gifts. If you 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 27th.

Extra Food for Food Pantry



The shutdown is affecting food banks nationwide as government workers without paychecks are resorting to them for food assistance. If this drags on much longer, SNAP recipients will also make greater demands on food pantries. Please bring extra food over the next several weeks to help meet this unexpected need. **Any food items are welcome whether or not they are on the list for the month.** This is a small way we can respond to the effect of the shutdown.

Green Team Tip

Water is becoming scarce, worldwide, even though our area has plenty. Save clean water by using dry detergent rather than liquid in your laundry.

25th ONA Anniversary Celebration - Sunday, January 27th



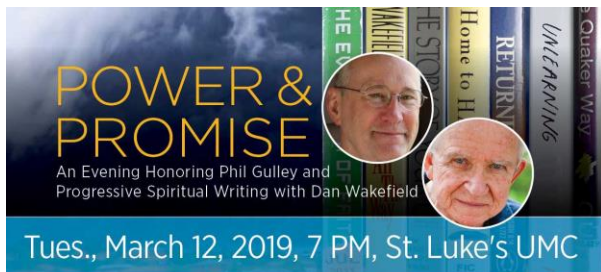
Sunday, January 27th, there will be a special 11:00 worship service celebrating our 25th anniversary of being Open and Affirming. Music, dance, plus cake and ice cream!

EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE NEEDED - IHN



Assistance is needed by an IHN hosting congregation. There was a large fire at New Bethel Missionary Baptist Church. Everyone was okay. A large part of the church property where families are hosted in the IHN program was severely damaged, leaving a gap in hosting February 17-24 and other weeks. St. Mark's United Methodist generously agreed to keep families the week of February 17-24, but requested help recruiting volunteers for meals, driving, overnight, etc. Would you please consider signing up for one volunteer role (the sign up covers both their back-to-back hosting weeks, so feel free if unavailable 2/17-24 to instead sign up for a role 2/10-17) using the sign up genius link. Thank you for considering!

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c094ba9a722a13-interfaith16>



Join Christian Theological Seminary to honor Phil Gulley and the power of progressive spiritual writing on March 12 at 7:00 p.m. at St. Luke's United Methodist Church, 100 W. 86th St.

Admission: \$25 (free for students)

Register [here](#).

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

THIS WEEK AT FIRST CONGREGATIONAL

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|------------------------------|-------------------|--|
| Thursday, January 17 | 7:00 p.m. | Choir Rehearsal |
| Sunday, January 20 | 9:45 a.m. | Adult Sunday Class |
| Sunday, January 20 | 11:00 a.m. | Worship |
| Sunday, January 20 | 12:30 p.m. | Worship & Faith Board Meeting |
| Sunday, January 20 | 2:00 p.m. | Church wide Spiritual Retreat Planning |
| Tuesday, January 22 | 9:00 a.m. | Foundation Meeting |
| Wednesday, January 23 | 6:30 p.m. | Calling Circle |
| Thursday, January 24 | 11:45 a.m. | Women's Lunch |
| Thursday, January 24 | 1:00 p.m. | Men's Lunch |
| Thursday, January 24 | 7:00 p.m. | Choir Rehearsal |
| Sunday, January 27 | 9:45 a.m. | Adult Sunday Class |
| Sunday, January 27 | 11:00 a.m. | Worship w/ 25 th ONA Anniversary Celebration |
| Sunday, January 27 | 12:30 p.m. | Annual Meeting with pitch-in lunch |