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 [Forward](#)



FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

E-pistle for the Week of January 17, 2019

Minister's Message

Dear First Congregational,

We've got a very special worship service planned this Sunday at 11am as we celebrate a quarter of a century as an Open and Affirming congregation. This is a great Sunday to bring family, friends and neighbors to experience this special celebration. Afterwards all are invited for pitch-in lunch and ONA cake!

Of course we will begin our Annual Meeting at 12:30pm, so come join us for a wonderful morning together as we grow together in God's love and plan for our hopeful future.

Blessings,
Pastor Sarah

Worship

Adult Class - 9:45 a.m.

January 27 - We continue discussing current events and articles from Christian Century or Sojourners.

Worship Service - 11:00 a.m.

This Sunday, January 27th, there will be a special 11:00 worship service celebrating our 25th anniversary of being Open and Affirming. Join us for music and dance, followed by cake and ice cream!

Pastor Sarah will preach on "A More Excellent Way: 25 Years of ONA."

Scripture: 1 Corinthians 12:12-31a



What's Happening at FCC

THIS SUNDAY!!! Annual Meeting at 12:30pm



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.

All Church Board Retreat - Saturday, February 2nd, 9:00 a.m. - Noon

All newly 2019 elected Board members plan to be present for this All Church Board Retreat.

Lenten Planning - Wednesday, February 6th, 6:30 p.m.

A beloved tradition in the springtime at FCC is engaging in a Lenten series that is challenging, enlightening, and meaningful. Please join Pastor Sarah and Lianna Campos to explore ideas for alternative worship for Lent this year! We will meet on Wednesday, February 6th at 6:30 to begin planning. Please contact Lianna at lcampos33@gmail.com or 317-954-1601 with any questions or comments.

Extra Food for Food Pantry

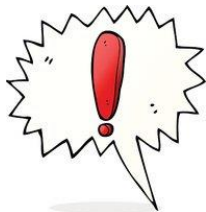


The shutdown is affecting food banks nationwide as government workers without paychecks are resorting to them for food assistance. If this drags on much longer, SNAP recipients will also make greater demands on food pantries. Please bring extra food over the next several weeks to help meet this unexpected 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

Have you cultivated the habit of turning lights off as you exit a room? Even if you plan to return? It pays to turn them off if you are gone longer than 90 seconds.

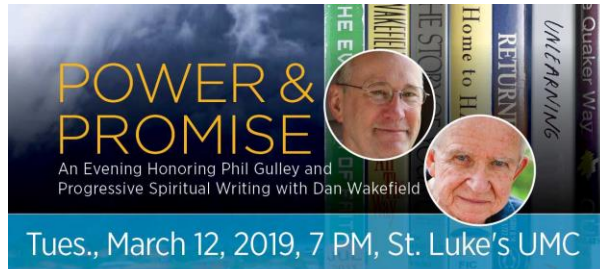
EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE NEEDED - IHN



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](#).

Save the Date: All-Church Retreat will be **March 22-23** at the Benedict Inn. Look for registration details coming soon. Talk to Pastor Sarah for more information.

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.

Please note: While Pastor Sarah is away serving the wider church on the Bethany Fellows Leadership Team mentoring young pastors (January 28-31), Carol Sowle can be reached for pastoral care at (317)496-9732 or at casowle@gmail.com.

THIS WEEK AT FIRST CONGREGATIONAL

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.	Sunday Adult Class
Sunday, January 27	11:00 a.m.	Worship
Sunday, January 27	12:30 p.m.	Annual Meeting
Thursday, January 31	7:00 p.m.	Choir Rehearsal
Saturday, February 2	9:00 a.m.	Board Retreat
Sunday, February 3	9:45 a.m.	Adult Sunday Class with guest, Rev. Michael Neuroth
Sunday, February 3	11:00 a.m.	Worship with guest preacher, Rev. Michael Neuroth
Sunday, February 3	12:30 p.m.	Just Peace Buzz & pitch-in lunch with Rev. Michael Neuroth