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FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

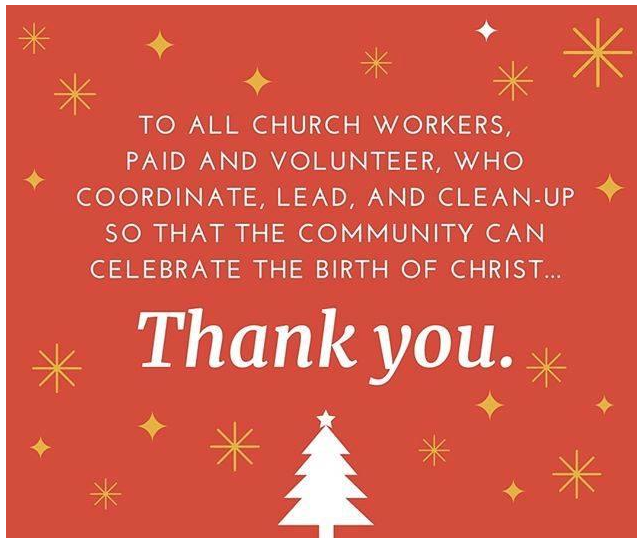
e-pistle for the week of December 27, 2018

Minister's Message

Dear First Congregational Family,

I'm still aglow from our Christmas Eve candlelight worship service. Thank you to all who made the worship service and fellowship time an experience to remember as we welcomed more visitors than in many previous years. As my first Christmas Eve serving as your pastor, I know it will hold a special place in my heart for years to come. Let us hold within our hearts this tender, courageous and spirited LIGHT of Christ as we invite the mystery and magic of Christmas to guide our faith journeys.

Blessings,
Pastor Sarah



Worship

Adult Class - 9:45 a.m.

December 30 – Change the World Through the Life and Love of Jesus Christ

Worship Service - 11:00 a.m.

This Sunday Carol Sowle will preach "Teach Each Other Well."

Scriptures: Luke 2:41-52

Colossians 3:12-17

What's Happening at FCC

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 27th.

What Shall We Bring?



Thank you to those who have responded to our 2019 Annual Campaign! To date, we have received 49 pledges for almost \$166K of financial support in 2019.

For those who have not yet responded, please consider the following:

1. Your pledge of financial and service resources greatly benefits FCC's planning for 2019;
2. Your pledge is an intention to give, and can be changed, either to give more or give less, based on your circumstances;
3. Your pledge is a way to bring your whole self to God and be generous with your life.

Please try to turn in your pledge by late December in order to assist our boards with preliminary planning. Pledge and service cards are available in the Narthex, and can be deposited in the basket or the offering plate. Or you can contact Shannon Abbott in the Church Office to have cards sent to you.

What shall we bring? Thank you to all who share your gifts and help First Congregational be dynamic and vital, energized to be a servant community of Jesus Christ!

Thank You for Your Generosity.

Thanks to your generosity Outreach & Service was able to deliver 28 gift cards worth of total of \$700 to Family Promise for the After-Care families before Christmas. From the "Mittens and More" collection we delivered 6 large bags of winter clothing: 5 coats, 17 scarves, 27 pairs of gloves, 2 pairs of mittens, 11 pairs of socks, 2 shawls, 1 headband and 76 hats!



Family Promise[®] of Greater Indianapolis

Can you help us spread the word? First-time donors can get 50% of their gift back if they act by December 31

Are you a potential first-time donor to Family Promise? Do you know one? We have a way to give you back **FIFTY PERCENT** of your year-end donation through a state income tax credit offer we were awarded. We have to raise \$3,000 from first-time donors by December 31 to keep this incentive in 2019.

The tax credits are first come, first served, so **email Mike Chapuran, Executive Director** (mike@fpgi.org) right now to check availability. Then he'll direct you how to make the easy donation!

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.

December Mission of the Month is The Christmas Fund

The UCC's Christmas fund assists retired pastors and their spouses living on reduced incomes. This offering provides funds for pension supplements, health premium supplements, emergency health or unexpected travel expenses, and Christmas "Thank You" checks. Use the special envelopes for your gifts or make a notation of "Christmas Fund" on your check to FCC. Single dollar bills in the offering plate will also go to this

offering. Please be generous in your support of those who have served the church and now need our help.

Pantry Items of the Month

During December we are collecting the following items: Muffin mix, Noodle, Cereal, and Laundry detergent.

Holiday Office Hours

The Church Office will be closed January 1.

Pastoral Care

While Pastor Sarah is away visiting with family from December 28 - January 3, please contact Carol Sowle at (317) 496-9732 or at casowle@gmail.com. After January 3rd, Pastor Sarah can be reached at (386) 478-9012 or at pastorsarah@fcindy.org

THIS WEEK AT FIRST CONGREGATIONAL

Thursday, December 27	1:00 p.m.	Men's Lunch
Thursday, December 27	7:00 p.m.	Choir Rehearsal
Sunday, December 30	9:45 a.m.	Sunday Adult Class
Sunday, December 30	11:00 a.m.	Worship with Carol Sowle preaching
Tuesday, January 1		New Year's Day – Church Office Closed
Thursday, January 3	7:00 p.m.	Choir Rehearsal
Sunday, January 6	9:45 a.m.	Sunday Adult Class
Sunday, January 6	11:00 a.m.	Worship
Sunday, January 6	12:30 p.m.	Unhanging of the Greens