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# FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

E-pistle for the Week of January 31, 2019

## Message

Dear Partners in Christ:

The vision of a body united –in purpose, in mission, in vision – is one that inspired the birth of our denomination. All of our spiritual impulses reverberate in an effort to call us into a more perfect union. Throughout our shared history as a people of faith and as a part of the Body of Christ, we have challenged ourselves to widen the circle of inclusion. Widening the circle has always come with growth pains as we shed old skins and welcome those whom we had previously thought unwelcome. And, with each new articulation of a more fully expressed Body of Christ we have realized new joy. Through it all we remain focused on the call to be one and committed to meeting the challenges inherent in that call.

We are now living in and through a season when the threats to unity are legion. Talk of walls that mark refugees as threats, labels like 'terrorist' that attach too easily to Muslims,

overt racial bias that normalizes fear and hatred, a pandemic of abuse to women with the trigger reflex to forgive the men who author that abuse have turned America into a land many of us no longer recognize and that too many of us are finding harder and harder to reconcile with our faith.

Now more than ever, the Holy Spirit of the Living God and the Risen Christ is seeking to partner with anyone committed to unifying the human community. The gospel mandate to love our neighbor as we love ourselves resonates deep within us. It calls for the better angels among and within us to always resist impulses to hate, to condemn, to vilify, or to castigate. In such a time as this, the United Church of Christ's call to fulfill the prayer of Jesus, that they may all be one, stands as an urgent mandate to disciples who envision a just world for all.

United with you in God's service,

The Rev. Dr. John C. Dorhauer  
General Minister and President



## Worship

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

February 3: We will welcome guest pastor Michael Neuroth to address our class about issues of Justice.

On Sun Jan 27th, the Adult Education class discussed immigration and wrote letters to Congress to encourage a long term solution to immigration problems rather than short term fixes that do not promote stability and continuity in policy for those coming to the U.S. and those already here. We spoke to our faith and our desire to have all people treated with

respect.

If anyone else would like to contact their legislators, on the table in the Narthex below the winter wall hanging is a sheet containing our Senators and 5th and 7th district House representatives addresses and phone numbers. There is also paper to use for your letter. Please send your letter to the Congressperson's Indianapolis address so it doesn't get caught in the extensive mail check that delays any mail sent to Congress persons' Washington address until it can be certified to be free of poisons.

You will note there is no Indianapolis office for Mike Braun, possibly because he is a new office holder. You can phone his office 202-224-4814 and leave a message asking him to set up an Indianapolis office. That might encourage him to get this vital link to his constituents set up sooner rather than later.

If anyone who has not attended the Education hour is interested in joining us please feel free to attend our sessions at the time listed above in the Adult Library on the 2nd floor.

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

Guest preacher, Rev. Michael Neuroth will preach on Just Peace: What's Love Got To Do With It?

Scripture: Jeremiah 1:4-10 & 1 Corinthians 13:1-13

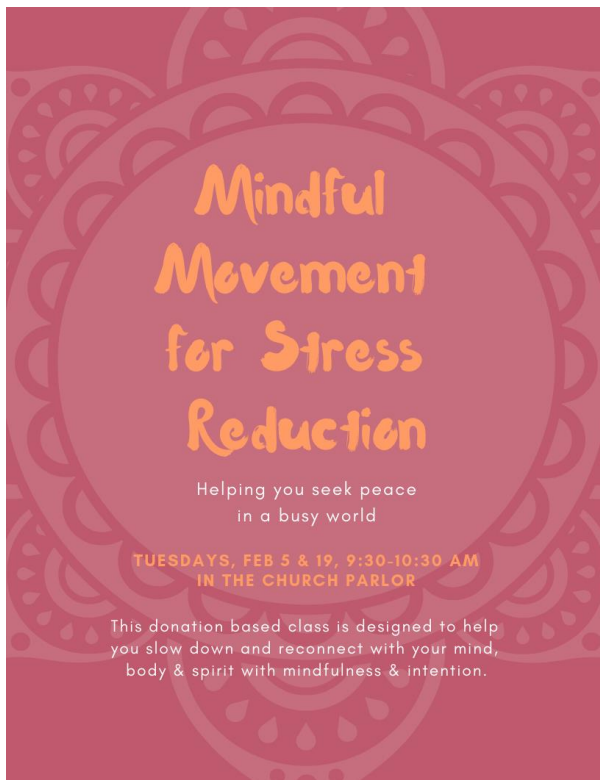
#### **What's Happening at FCC**

#### **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.

**February Buzz - February 3, 12:30 p.m.:** At this month's Buzz, we welcome guest, Rev. Michael Neuroth, as he leads a discussion on UCC Justice Ministries and what it means to be a Just Peace Church. Please join us for discussion and a light lunch.

#### **Mindful Movement - February 5 & 19, 9:30 a.m.**



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



Lent

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](mailto:lcampos33@gmail.com) or 317-954-1601 with any questions or comments.

**Friends of First Jazz Trio**



Join us Saturday February 16th in the Mayflower room for a concert of music presented by our worship musicians Julie Houston, Sean Baker, and Jesse Wittman. These musicians' careers have expanded beyond the roles of choir director, organist, and bassist for worship services. Julie will bring us some of her expertise in Brazillian music and jazz. Sean's inventive and sometimes comical arrangements of standards will delight you. If you've never heard a string bass player really swing, Jesse is one of the best jazz bass soloists in the city! The concert starts at 7:00 p.m. but come early to get your choice of desserts.

Tickets are \$10 and available each Sunday after church. Please see any choir member.

### Extra Food for Food Pantry



The shutdown has affected food banks nationwide as government workers without paychecks resorted (and in some cases are still resorting) to them for food assistance. If the shutdown returns in 3 weeks, SNAP recipients may 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

It surprises many people that chargers take electricity even if not charging. Plan to remove these from plugs when not charging (computers, phones, lpad, Kindles, etc.)

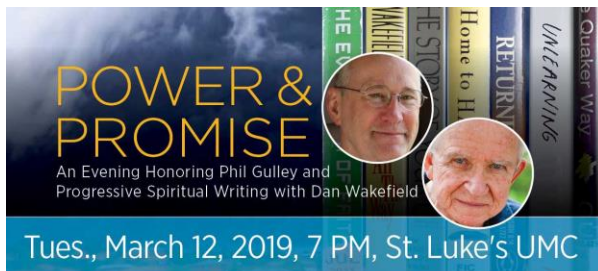
### EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE NEEDED - IHN



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.

### **February Mission of the Month is Peace Learning Center**

As our church becomes a Just Peace Church we have an opportunity to witness to our commitment to peace and support the Peace Learning Center, an internationally recognized community educational institution promoting peace-building and conflict resolution with programs replicated in eight US cities and five countries. Since 1997, the PLC has reached more than 210,000 people locally and internationally.

Peace Learning Center educates, inspires and, empowers people to live peacefully. Its vision is to build a community of peace where respect is primary and justice is real.

Through the modeling of behaviors, community collaboration, and by providing services, the PLC values:

- Peaceful resolution of all conflicts
- Strength of diversity in our community
- The potential of youth

- Responsible stewardship of the environment and community resources

The PLC works directly with schools, community nonprofits, businesses, juvenile correctional facilities, and faith groups to facilitate peace education. The Peace Learning Center believes everyone can be a peacemaker. Programs teach safe and simple ways to manage anger, solve problems, and develop appreciation for differing perspectives. Consider a generous contribution to our February Mission of the Month, the Peace Learning Center. You can learn more about this inspiring organization at [www.peacelearningcenter.org](http://www.peacelearningcenter.org)

### Pantry Items of the Month



During February we are collecting the following items: jelly/ jam, pasta, canned tuna/chicken, bar soap.

### 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 31</b>	<b>7:00 p.m.</b>	Choir Rehearsal
<b>Saturday, February 2</b>	<b>9:00 a.m.</b>	Board Retreat
<b>Sunday, February 3</b>	<b>12:30 p.m.</b>	Buzz on Just Peace, & light lunch w/ Rev. Michael Neuroth
<b>Tuesday, February 5</b>	<b>9:00 a.m.</b>	Mindful Movement for Stress Reduction
<b>Tuesday, February 5</b>	<b>2:00 p.m.</b>	Mental Health Team
<b>Wednesday, February 6</b>	<b>6:30 p.m.</b>	Trustees Meeting
<b>Thursday, February 7</b>	<b>1:00 p.m.</b>	Men's Lunch
<b>Thursday, February 7</b>	<b>7:00 p.m.</b>	Choir Rehearsal
<b>Saturday, February 9</b>	<b>9:00 a.m.</b>	Outreach & Service Meeting
<b>Saturday, February 9</b>	<b>10:30 a.m.</b>	Bell Choir Rehearsal (library)
<b>Sunday, February 10</b>	<b>9:45 a.m.</b>	Adult Sunday Class
<b>Sunday, February 10</b>	<b>11:00 a.m.</b>	Worship: Sacred Organ Music Sunday w/ guest organist, Charles Manning

**Sunday, February 10**

**12:30 p.m.** Retreat Planning