

 [FirstCongregationalUCCIndy](#)

 [Forward](#)



FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

E-pistle for the Week of February 7, 2019

Message

Dear First Congregational:

To kick off Black History Month, here are two bite-sized pieces of wisdom from the late, great literary genius, Maya Angelou. Like gems, these are ideas you can put in your pocket, and take them out whenever you need them :)

Gem #1:

Angelou didn't call herself a Christian - not exactly. In an [interview](#) on the occasion of being awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom, she put it this way:

"I'm always amazed when people walk up to me and say, 'I'm a Christian. I think, 'Already? You already got it?' I'm working at it, which means that I try to be as kind and fair and generous and respectful and courteous to every human being."

Gem #2:

In another interview, Angelou said that while she was taught to believe in God, she became courageous when she made that belief her own. "I dared to do anything that was a good thing. I dared to do things distant from what seemed to be in my future. When I was asked to do something good, I often say yes, I'll try, yes, I'll do my best. And part of that is believing, if God loves me, if God made everything from leaves to seals and oak trees, then what is it I can't do?"

So in Angelou's honor, let's keep these gems close and remember that being "Christian" is always a work in progress - and that God's creative love makes all things possible!

(from SALT Project - www.saltproject.org)

Worship

Adult Class - 9:45 a.m.

February 10: We will explore the work of Rev. Dr. William Barber II.

A short bio from the Chalice Press website: *"Rev. Dr. William J. Barber II is pastor of Greenleaf Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Goldsboro, NC, president of the North Carolina NAACP, and a member of the National NAACP Board. As a full-time pastor, he has given countless volunteer hours to civil rights and movement building, because of his conviction that there is no real worship without a commitment to justice and social change. He has been featured in the Wall Street Journal, CNN, MSNBC, the New York Times, and numerous other publications, and has spoken, preached and lectured around the country. In 2018 he was named as a recipient of the prestigious MacArthur Fellowship Genius Grant."*

Worship Service - 11:00 a.m.

Pastor Sarah will preach on "Who Will Go For Us?"

Scripture: Isaiah 6:1-13

This Sunday is Sacred Organ Music Sunday with special guest Charles Manning.

What's Happening at FCC

Immigration Letters

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.

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.

EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE NEEDED - IHN

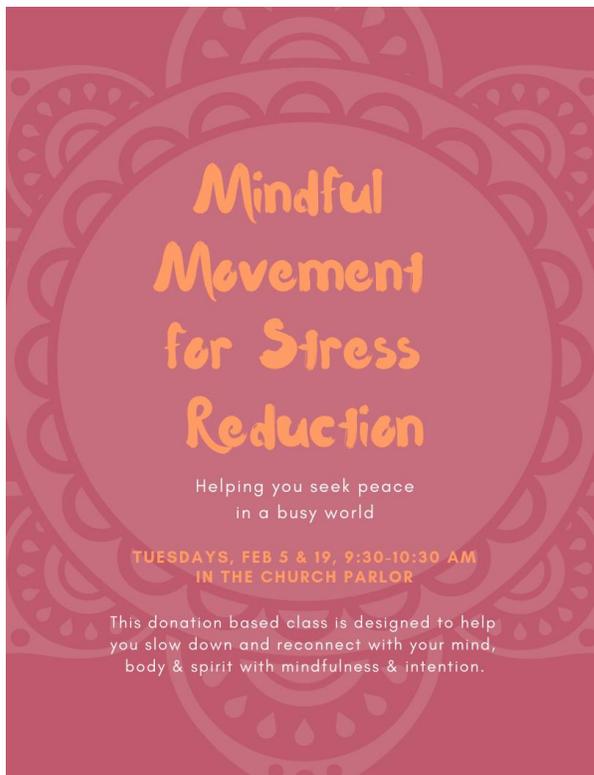


Assistance is needed by an IHN hosting congregation. There was a large

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>

Mindful Movement - February 19, 9:30 a.m.



Extra Food for Food Pantry



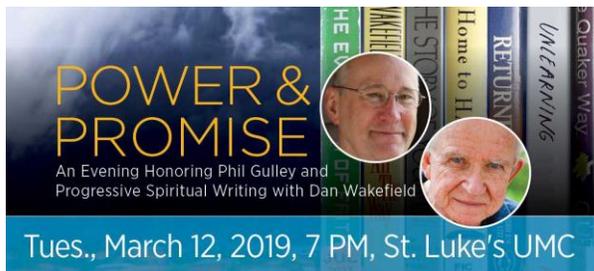
The shutdown has affected food banks nationwide as government workers without paychecks resorted (and in some cases are still resorting) to them for food assistance. If the shutdown returns on the 15th, SNAP recipients may also make greater demands on food pantries. Please bring extra food over the next 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

Have you replaced your furnace filter recently?

Spiritual Writing Workshop



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

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.

THIS WEEK AT FIRST CONGREGATIONAL

Thursday, February 7	1:00 p.m.	Men's Lunch
Thursday, February 7	7:00 p.m.	Choir Rehearsal
Saturday, February 9	9:00 a.m.	Outreach & Service Board Meeting
Saturday, February 9	10:30 a.m.	Bell Choir Rehearsal
Sunday, February 10	9:45 a.m.	Adult Sunday Class
Sunday, February 10	11:00 a.m.	Worship
Sunday, February 10	12:30 p.m.	Retreat Planning
Wednesday, February 13	6:30 p.m.	Church Council
Thursday, February 14	7:00 p.m.	Choir Rehearsal
Saturday, February 16	10:30 a.m.	Bell Choir Rehearsal
Saturday, February 16	7:00 p.m.	Friends of First Jazz Trio