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# FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

E-pistle for the Week of February 15, 2019

## Message

**Dear First Congregational:**

We are coming up on my one year anniversary on the first of March of serving in ministry with you as your pastor. Thank you for your invitation to journey with you on this shared pilgrimage of faith. As I reflect on the past year, I remain grateful and joyful about being your pastor.

Thank you for supporting the ministry I do serving the wider church in my role on the UCC National Staff as the Minister for Disabilities and Mental Health Justice. In the next couple of weeks I will be lecturing about disabilities and mental health justice at Princeton Theological Seminary, leading a WISE (Welcoming, Inclusive, Supportive, and Engaged) training at City of Refuge UCC in Oakland, CA and preaching at First Congregational of Palo Alto, CA.

Thank you for blessing this ministry to the wider church with your support and prayers. I am especially grateful to Carol Sowle for providing pastoral care and for preaching on February 24. Our congregation is blessed by many talented leaders and I am honored to partner with others to fulfill our shared mission.

Blessings,  
Pastor Sarah

## Worship

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

February 17: We will explore the work of Rev. Dr. Traci Blackmon.

*"Rev. Traci Blackmon's life calling is to serve God and the church in ways that encourages us to do justice, love mercy, and walk humbly in fellowship with all believers. She is grateful to live out this calling as Acting Executive Minister of Justice & Witness Ministries for The United Church of Christ and as Pastor of Christ The King United Church of Christ in Florissant, MO. Initially ordained in the African Methodist Episcopal Church, Rev. Blackmon served in various ministry capacities for 9 years, prior to becoming the 18th installed and first woman pastor in the 159 year history of Christ The King United Church of Christ. She obtained a Bachelor of Science degree in Nursing from Birmingham - Southern College (1985), a Master of Divinity degree (2009), and an honorary Doctor of Divinity degree from Eden Theological Seminary."*

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

Pastor Sarah will preach on "The Dance of the Divine."

Scripture: Exodus 15:1-21

## What's Happening at FCC

### Friends of First Jazz Trio: Saturday, February 16, 7:00 p.m.



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.



**Paper towels and other items are urgently needed at the Family Promise Day Center**

We need your help! We have been serving families at increasing rate with the funds raised at last year's Home Sweet Home. While that is great, it means we are getting low on pretty much everything. Thanks to your past generosity, we only had to send out one of these emails for the whole year. Can you donate an item?

- Paper towels,
- All surface cleaners in spray bottles (approx. 32 oz.),
- Jogging strollers (their big wheels do better on snowy sidewalks),
- Umbrellas,
- Male and female deodorant,
- Disposable razors,
- New twin blankets and pillows,
- Paper cups (8-12 oz.), hot or cold beverages
- Plastic forks, knives, and spoons (in order of preference),
- Paper plates and bowls,
- Toilet paper (if you'll permit, we humbly request at least as many ply as you have thumbs),
- Pull-ups (and other diapers) of all sizes,
- Liquid hand soap (large refill bottles, not dispensers),
- 39-gallon black trash bags (with built-in ties),
- 13-gallon white trash bags (ties not needed),
- Regular laundry detergent (pods are preferred; we won't eat them!),
- Dye-free laundry detergent (for parents with infants, usually labeled "free and clear"),

- Coffee, dry creamer, sugar in pourable/sealable container.

Thank you sincerely for your consideration. We would greatly appreciate any donations (no name brands necessary). **Please put donations in the box in the narthex under the quilted hanging through the end of February.**

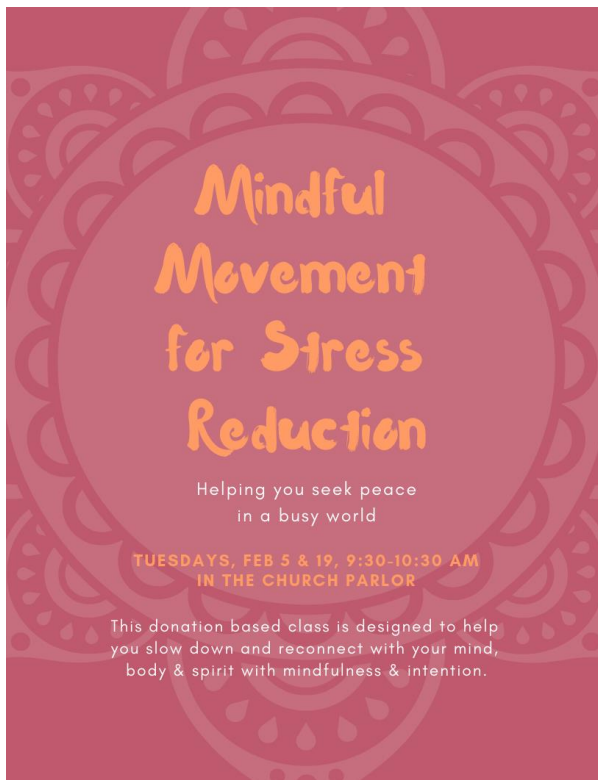
### **EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE NEEDED - IHN**



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.**



### **First Congregational Whole-Church Retreat**

*Different, Equal, and Whole: Coming Together as One*

On March 22nd through March 23rd, you are invited to gather at the Benedict Inn in Beech Grove for our Whole-Church Overnight Retreat. Through scripture, worship, dialogue, and prayer, we will seek to encounter the Divine by recognizing the spiritual gifts in ourselves and one another. Registration is \$35 per person plus a modest lodging fee due March 13th. If you have any questions, please contact Pastor Sarah. Pick up a registration form in the narthex or download the .pdf here: [2019 FCC Retreat Registration Form](#).

### **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.

### **Civic Saturdays**

Civic Saturday explores the American creed and how democratic values and principles such as liberty, equality, and self-government bind us together (even when we argue over them!).

Come together with friends and strangers to nurture a shared civic spirit through poetry, songs, and readings of great and provocative American texts. We'll also listen to a "civic sermon" and gather in Civic Circles to practice the skills of listening and showing up for each other in public life.

Saturday, Feb. 23, 11am-12pm

Tuesday, Apr. 19, 6-7pm

Saturday, July 20, 11am-12pm

*Each Civic Saturday is different so come to all three!*

Located at: Central Library

6th Floor Reading Room

40 E. St. Clair Street, Indianapolis

Parking available in the library garage (approx. \$1/hr)

FREE & OPEN TO ALL

### **Extra Food for Food Pantry**

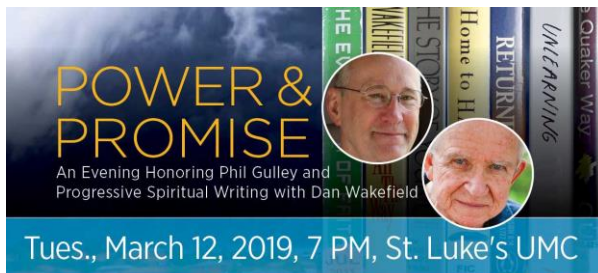


The shutdown has affected food banks nationwide as government workers without paychecks resorted (and in some cases are still resorting) to them for food assistance. Please bring extra food over the next several weeks to help meet this unexpected need. **Any food items are welcome whether or not they 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](#).

### 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).  
February 22-25 Carol Sowle will be on-call for pastoral care and can be reached at (317) 496-9732.

### THIS WEEK AT FIRST CONGREGATIONAL

Saturday, February 16	10:30 a.m.	Bell Choir Rehearsal
Saturday, February 16	7:00 p.m.	Friends of First Jazz Trio
Sunday, February 17	9:45 a.m.	Adult Sunday Class
Sunday, February 17	11:00 a.m.	Worship
Tuesday, February 19	9:30 a.m.	Mindful Movement
Tuesday, February 19	1:30 p.m.	Circle IV
Thursday, February 21	1:00 p.m.	Men's Lunch



**Thursday, February 21**

**7:00 p.m. Choir Rehearsal**

**Sunday, February 24**

**9:45 a.m. Adult Sunday Class**

**Sunday, February 24**

**11:00 a.m. Worship w/ Carol Sowle preaching**