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FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

E-pistle for the Week of February 21, 2019

Message

Dear First Congregational:

A place to **belong**, a place to **heal** and a place to **love**...these words summarize how we see ourselves being and becoming as a church. Belonging, healing and loving happen when we come together as one. This theme will guide us as we begin the Lenten season, starting with Ash Wednesday on March 6, leading us to Easter on April 21. To encourage our experiences of belonging, healing and loving, we invite each member of the congregation to join a small group for four weeks during Lent, beginning the week of March 11 and ending the week of April 8. Small groups will meet in the homes of church members as well as one group meeting at our church. Small groups will meet four times together, so that over the four times you gather, you are able to develop a sense of belonging to your small group, share in healing conversations, and build loving relationships.

We are excited to offer small groups as a way to grow closer to each other and grow closer to

God. Sign-up sheets for small groups are available in the Narthex and we encourage you to give it a try. You pick the small group that works best for you, with the location, date and time that works for your life. Try to make it your Lenten practice to attend your small group the four times they meet. Each small group will have a host and also a facilitator who will guide the small group through reflection of scripture and interactive exploration of various faith practices (such as prayer and poetry). This will be a fun and meaningful way for us to develop and deepen our sense of community as the Body of Christ.

I give thanks to God for each of you,
Pastor Sarah

Worship

Adult Class - 9:45 a.m.

February 24: We will explore the passions and work of 7 up and coming young African American Leaders: Mari Copeny (age 10), Nyeeam Hudson (age 12), Marley Dias (age 13), Grace Dolan-Sandino (age 17), Yara Shahidi (age 17), Tony Weaver (age 23), and Malcolm Mitchell (age 24).

Worship Service - 11:00 a.m.

Carol Sowle will preach on "Who are my enemies and why should I love them?"
Scripture: Luke 6: 27-38

What's Happening at FCC



World Day of Prayer

World Day of Prayer will be celebrated March 1 and March 8 in nine locations throughout the greater Indianapolis area. Included is a Spanish language service at Christ Church Cathedral. The program material was prepared by the women of Slovenia with the theme "Come everything is ready" based on the invitation from Luke. With these words as a backdrop, we are challenged to widen our circles and expand our communities. The table is ready and open to everyone. The rich culture of Slovenia is reflected in the service.

Services and locations and times are as follows...

On **Friday, March 1**, the following locations will have a service:

Central Downtown, Tabernacle Presbyterian Church, 418 E. 34th St., 10:00 am
East Central, Martindale Church of Christ, 2404 Dr. A.J. Brown Ave., 7:00 pm
North Central, Orchard Park Presbyterian Church, 1605 E. 106th Street, 9:30 am
South, St. Mark AME Zion Church, 1801 Shelby Street, 2:00 pm
West, Robin Run Village, 5354 W. 62nd Street, 1:30 pm
Northwest, University United Methodist Church, 5959 Grandview Dr., 11:00 am
Northeast, St. Lawrence Catholic Church, 6944 E. 46th St., 10:00 am.

On **Sunday, March 3**, at 1:00 pm, a **Hispanic Service** will be held at **Christ Church Cathedral** on Monument Circle.

On **Friday, March 8**, on the **Southwest** side, St. Joseph Catholic Church will have a service at 7 pm.



Pre-Mardi Gras Pancake Brunch and Games

Come join us at the church on Saturday, March 2, from 11-2 for brunch and playing various board and card games. Come for the whole time, or come when you can.



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.**

There is also an Amazon Emergency Needs List. If you are an Amazon shopper, they will ship directly to the Day Center.

https://www.amazon.com/gp/registry/wishlist/5ZXKSQD24V12?ref_=cm_sw_r_cp_ep_ws_CJypybGFYEWSM&pldnSite=1



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. 16, 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

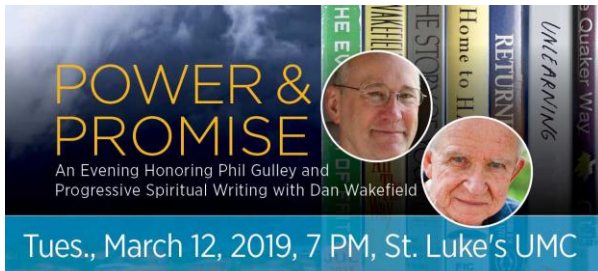


The shutdown has affected food banks nationwide as government workers without paychecks resorted (and in some cases are still resorting) to them for food assistance. Please bring extra food over the next several weeks to help meet this unexpected need. **Any food items are welcome whether or not they are on the list for the month.** This is a small way we can respond to the effect of the shutdown.

Green Team Tip

When you purchase groceries, consider the packaging: recycle the plastic bags for your fruits and vegetables, choose eggs in cardboard cartons instead of Styrofoam. If you do have Styrofoam egg cartons, don't throw them away! Make a special trip, if necessary, to buy local eggs at your farmers market; they'll be happy to take your empty cartons and re-use them.

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

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.

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

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 with Carol Sowle preaching
Wednesday, February 27	6:00 p.m.	Calling Circle
Thursday, February 28	11:45 a.m.	Women's Lunch
Thursday, February 28	7:00 p.m.	Choir Rehearsal
Saturday, March 2	11:00 a.m.	Pancake Brunch & Games
Sunday, March 3	9:45 a.m.	Adult Sunday Class
Sunday, March 4	11:00 a.m.	Worship with Rev. Elizabeth Price preaching