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FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

E-pistle for Holy Week 2019



Dear First Congregational:

As we move through Holy Week together, I invite us to think about the humility that Jesus' shows in this part of his journey. He enters into Jerusalem not on a war horse, but a lowly colt. He eats a humble meal with his disciples and then experiences humiliation of arrest, conviction and execution. Jesus experiences what is unimaginable and what ultimately causes his death...hatred and fear that still cause suffering today. As we move through Holy Week, we pause in these hard places to realize that our humble journey often takes us to the cross, to places of suffering. May we be reminded that we are not alone and that we are loved.

Join us Thursday at 6:30pm for a soup supper followed by the Lord's Supper in the parlor, and then a service of Tenebrae in the sanctuary as we hear the story and remember the humble walk of our Savior, Jesus the Christ.

Easter is coming....but first we pause and remember the cross.

Blessings,
Pastor Sarah

~Holy Week Worship~

April 18: Maundy Thursday Soup Dinner with Communion in the parlor at 6:30pm, followed by Worship in the sanctuary

April 19: Good Friday Ecumenical Worship at 11am followed by luncheon at Castleton United Methodist Church

April 21: Easter Sunday Celebration with Handel's Messiah at 11am

Special Meeting Called for Sunday, April 28th, 2019

Greetings! As Moderator and on behalf of the Council, I am authorized by the Constitution to convene a special meeting of the Congregation. It will occur immediately after 11am worship on Sunday, April 28th.

First Congregational member and current Worship and Faith Board Chair, Lianna Campos, has volunteered to assume the duties of Vice Moderator. The Council has approved this; but our Bylaws state that Council vacancies must be filled by vote of the congregation.

All told, we can consider and dispense with this issue quickly. I urge you to take time to consider this issue, and if you are able to attend on April 28th ready to do your best for First Congregational UCC.

Thank you,
Richard Gibson
Moderator
First Congregational UCC

Worship

Adult Class - 9:45 a.m.

April 21 - Exploring Resurrection Part 1 - the Traditional View. We will read a reflection

from Shawnthea Monroe, who is the senior minister of Plymouth Church of Shaker Heights, Ohio. Her reflection was published in Christian Century, March 10, 2016.

Easter Sunday Worship Service - 11:00 a.m.

Pastor Sarah will preach on "Do We Believe the Things We Have Seen and Heard?"

Scripture: John 20:1-18

What's Happening at FCC

Sew Day for Days for Girls Service Project - April 22, 9:30 a.m. - Noon



Sewers, cutters, and workers needed for a church sew day on Monday, April 22nd from 9:30-noon in the Mayflower room. The Indiana/Kentucky UCC conference has challenged each member church to make 100 sets of kits that allow young women to attend school while they are menstruating. We are well underway, but now need workers. Bring your sewing machine, rotary cutters and mats, sewing shears, or just yourself and we will put you to work on this worthy project. Please let Sue Chapman (carolsuech59@gmail.com) or Linda Lupton (lklupton@aol.com) know if you are available to help on this day or are able to work at home.

Also needed:

- * 22 more pairs of 100% cotton dark/bright color panties (girls 12/14 briefs)
- * dark/brightly colored flannel (for pads – we are making 800 pads!)
- * 50 more 100% cotton, dark/bright color wash cloths
- * monetary donations to cover expenses for fabric/supplies.

Thanks for making a difference in the lives of young women in developing nations.

Mindful Movement - Wednesday, April 24, 9:30am



In yoga, there is a common phrase, “root down to rise up.” In Mindful Movement, we practice this intention as we root down through the remembrance of the Lenten season and celebrate the joy of the risen Christ during the season of Easter. The promise of the resurrection brings renewal, rebirth, and a reconnecting with the wholeness that is found when you unite mind, body, and spirit with the One God who promises to be with us in both the desert and in the resurrection.

- Mindful Movement is a *donation-based class*.
- Please wear loose, comfortable clothing.
- We have a limited number of yoga mats available. If you have one, please bring it, but if you don't, please don't let that stop you from coming. We've got you covered.
- Chairs are also available for those more comfortable participating in a chair.

Join Creative Worship Design!

Did you like our Palm Sunday service with its drama, music, and “protest rally” focus? The Creative Worship Design Team hopes so. This team works together to develop and execute creative worship as a way to broaden the scope of our Sunday morning worship experiences. We'd love to have anyone with an interest join us! Our **next meetings will be on Thursdays – April 25, May 2, and May 16 – all at 5:30 PM**. We're now beginning to work on Pride Sunday (June 2) and Pentecost (June 9), and we're looking for a variety of creative ideas. Experience has shown us that the more ideas thrown into the mix the better the outcome. Participation with the team for only one Sunday is certainly welcomed, so there's no requirement to “sign up” for the indefinite future. Come and join us as you feel called. Contact Pastor Sarah for more info.

Dine Out for Life - Thursday, April 25



Dine Out, Fight AIDS

Dine Out for Life is celebrating 25 years of raising funds for the Damien Center on Thursday, April 25. Please google "Dine Out for Life 2019, Indianapolis" for a list of restaurants that donate 25% or 50% of their food sales that day. Eat out for lunch, dinner or both for a good cause.

Annual Spring Work Day – Saturday, April 27, 9:30-noon

Spring Work Day



Please join us for fellowship and sweat equity on Saturday, 4/27, for our annual spring yard cleanup. There will be mulch to spread, weeds to pull, undergrowth to trim, and whatever else is needed to help spruce up our grounds. This is a great way to give to the church, share camaraderie, and have a great feeling of accomplishment. The more, the merrier, and we'll find a task for you, no matter what your experience level is! Please bring your favorite outdoor work tools, especially gloves. Contact Wendy Baldwin if you are interested in coming.

Ending Hunger—What's God Got to Do with It? April 29, 7-8:30 p.m.



breadfortheworld
HAVE FAITH. END HUNGER.

At this Bread for the World event (at North United Methodist Church), Rev. Dick Hamm explores how hunger advocates can help our elected officials understand how policies and priorities can help end hunger and also explores the Biblical basis for advocacy. Check-in is from 6:45 -7:00 p.m. The event is free. Please register so they know how many to expect at: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/changing-the-systems-whats-god-got-to-do-with-it-tickets-59889096901>

Poems & Stories

The Mental Health Team is asking for people to share poems and stories on the topic of "LGBTQ and Mental Health." We are collecting these through May 19. Booklets will be assembled to give to visitors to our booth at the PRIDE Festival. Entries may be emailed to

Brandi Pudlo: bpudlo@knox.edu. If you would like to send a draft for proof-reading before a final copy is printed, please send an email with the draft by May 1st.

1857 Society

The Society invites all who remember the church in their wills or estate plans, or plan to do so, to the Society's initial annual meeting, to be held at noon on Friday May 3 at Marquette Manor. The lunch meal is complimentary and there will be an outside speaker. Watch for reservation instructions. Commitment forms to join the Society are on the bulletin board inside the entrance to the parking lot. Questions? See Bill Gillette.



Dress for Success

Spring Cleaning? Have gently used professional women's clothes you are no longer wearing? Dress for Success can give them to women who can't afford interview clothes to help them be better prepared when job hunting. Put donations in the cloakroom by the sign. Thanks!

Green Team Tip

Try taking a Navy (also known as European or Asian) shower! Wet yourself down, turn off the water and lather up, then turn the water back on to rinse off. It's just like leaving the water running while brushing your teeth—why waste what you're not using? (This week's Green Tip is from Sandy Wood. If you want to share a green habit, please send it to hoot.gibson.tds@gmail.com.)

Food Donations for the Northside Pantry

Donations have been generous and are appreciated. Please keep them coming!

April Mission of the Month: Exodus Refugee

Exodus Refugee is an organization with a chapter in Indianapolis that helps resettle refugees who come to this country legally. Exodus helps our new neighbors meet basic needs, but also provide services including social and medical services, English language training, and employment services. Their goal is to help members of our community achieve self sufficiency in their new home. With the cuts and changes in US immigration policy, there has been a severe cut in funding, but legal refugees continue to arrive.

We ask that you give generously to support their important work that is an action we can take to answer God's commandment that we love our neighbors as ourselves. Change and dollar bills in the offering plate will be designated for the mission of the month. Larger bills should be put in the "mission offering" envelopes in the pew and put in the offering plate. Checks should have Exodous marked in the memo line and made out to the church. We appreciate your help. Thank you for your support.

Pantry Items of the Month



During March we are collecting the following items: canned ravioli, cereal, soup, pasta and deodorant.

Pastoral Care

Pastor Sarah can be reached at (386) 478-9012 or at pastorsarah@fcindy.org.

THIS WEEK AT FIRST CONGREGATIONAL

Thursday, April 18	1:00 p.m.	Men's Lunch
Thursday, April 18	6:30 p.m.	Maundy Thursday Soup Dinner & Worship
Friday, April 19	11:00 a.m.	Good Friday Worship @ Castleton UMC
Saturday, April 20	10:00 a.m.	Bell Choir
Sunday, April 21	9:45 a.m.	Sunday Adult Class
Sunday, April 21	11:00 a.m.	Easter Worship
Monday, April 22	9:30 a.m.	Days for Girls Sew Day
Tuesday, April 23	9:00 a.m.	Foundation Meeting
Wednesday, April 24	9:30 a.m.	Mindful Movement
Wednesday, April 24	5:00 p.m.	Mental Health Team Meeting
Wednesday, April 24	6:30 p.m.	Calling Circle
Thursday, April 25	11:45 a.m.	Women's Lunch
Thursday, April 25	5:30 p.m.	Summer Series Planning Meeting
Thursday, April 25	7:00 p.m.	Green Congregations Meeting
Thursday, April 25	7:00 p.m.	Choir Rehearsal

Saturday, April 27	9:30 a.m.	Annual Spring Work Day
Sunday, April 28	9:45 a.m.	Sunday Adult Class
Sunday, April 28	11:00 a.m.	Worship
Sunday, April 28	12:15 p.m.	Congregational Meeting
Sunday, April 28	12:30 p.m.	Worship & Faith Meeting