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FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

E-pistle for the Week of April 25, 2019

Dear First Congregational:

As we continue to listen to the Still Speaking God and to be open to trying new things as the Body of Christ, one of the things we experimented with was to meet in small groups during Lent. I participated in the small group that met at Marquette Manor (see photo of our group) and cherished our time together. We hope to continue to experiment with small group gatherings in the future. As we seek to deepen our connections and grow in Christ's love, we discover joy in relationship. God shows up in the sharing of stories, in the laughter and the tears.



I continue to be grateful and joyful to serve as your senior pastor. Thank you for the ways you support and encourage our ministry together. I look forward to seeing where God leads us next.

With Resurrection hope,
Pastor Sarah

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 28 - Exploring Resurrection Part 2 - the Progressive Christian view. We view a video and discuss an article from Marcus Borg.

Sunday Worship Service - 11:00 a.m.

Pastor Sarah will preach on "What's Giving You Life These Days?"

Scripture: John 20:19-31

What's Happening at FCC

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.

Picnic with the Meridian Hills Cooperative School - THIS SUNDAY, April 28, 12:30-3:30pm



Bring your picnic basket and blanket and join us on the playground this Sunday for an afternoon of fun!

We will have crafts, games, face painting, and a freshly spruced-up playground for the whole family to enjoy. Tea and cookies will be provided. Please bring your own picnic if you would like any additional refreshments.

Hope to see you there! - Linda Foley, Preschool Director

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

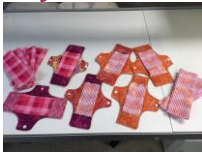
The Mental Health Team is asking for people to share poems and stories on the topic of "LGBTQ and Mental Health." We are collecting these through May 19. Booklets will be assembled to give to visitors to our booth at the PRIDE Festival. Entries may be emailed to

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.

Days for Girls Update



We had a great work day on Monday, April 22nd for our Days for Girls kits. Although the counting, sewing, cutting, pressing was a blur of activity I think we made an additional 30 pads 12 shields and 6 bags. We also prepped lots of bags, shields and pads to take home and sew.

Here is where we are with our goal of 100 kits:

- Soap-complete
- wash cloths-complete
- plastic bags-complete
- panties-need 17 more? (Sue will order when we get more \$\$ donated)
- shields-72 complete, 74 cut and ready to sew, and another pile of fabrics & PUL ready to cut, so we should be able to complete the 200 needed.
- pads-183 done, another 200+ in prep. **This is where we need the most help!!!!**
(We need a total of 800!)
- drawstring bags -17 completed, 13 cut and ready to sew

Thank you all for your contributions (time, talent, financial). We have until **late May to finish**. Can we try to have our work at home completed by **May 12th** and bring to church so we can have another reckoning on where we need to go?

Thanks again! - Linda Lupton



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

When recycling tin cans take a moment to make a slit in the label, peel it off and put it in the paper recycling bin. (This week's Green Tip is from Linda Lupton. 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 25	11:45 a.m.	Women's Lunch
Thursday, April 25	5:30 p.m.	Summer Series Planning Mtg
Thursday, April 25	7:00 p.m.	Indianapolis 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	12:15 p.m.	Congregational Meeting
Sunday, April 28	12:30 p.m.	Worship & Faith Meeting
Sunday, April 28	12:30 p.m.	Picnic w/ Meridian Hills School
Tuesday, April 30	3:30 p.m.	Care & Connection
Tuesday, April 30	7:00 p.m.	Bread for the World Meeting
Wednesday, May 1	9:30 a.m.	Mindful Movement
Wednesday, May 1	7:00 p.m.	Trustees Meeting
Thursday, May 2	1:00 p.m.	Men's Lunch
Thursday, May 2	7:00 p.m.	Choir Rehearsal
Sunday, May 5	9:45 a.m.	Sunday Adult Class
Sunday, May 5	11:00 a.m.	Worship
Sunday, May 5	12:15 p.m.	Summer Series Planning Mtg