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FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

E-pistle for the Week of May 2, 2019



Dear First Congregational:

We are a vibrant, growing faith community that seeks to create a church where people can experience what it is like to belong, to heal, and to love. I want to take this opportunity to say “thank you” to our dedicated and faithful church council, committees, and teams who generously share their time, talent, and treasure to support our mission.

I also want to say “thank you” to our gifted and hard working church staff. We are truly blessed as a congregation.

What are you thankful for today?

Blessings,
Pastor Sarah

Make a Resolution on Earth Sunday!

This Sunday we'll be celebrating the Earth. We, the Green Team, are asking you to spend a little time, now would be fine, thinking about some small practice you can do to reduce your own load on the earth, the atmosphere, or the oceans. When you get to church Sunday, you'll find a 3x5 card in your bulletin, and more will be in the pews if you need more. Please write down your resolution on the card, and then put it in the collection plate. Please find a few ideas below to spark your imagination:

- Turn off unused lights. Put outside lights on timers or motion detectors
- Reduce your incandescent bulbs with LEDs
- Turn your thermostat down a degree or two in the winter, and up in the summer
- Plant a tree or bushes; help the earth's ability to convert CO2 to oxygen
- Use sunlight for passive heating--open and close shades and blinds to complement inside temps
- Use solar panels to recharge batteries and power outside lights
- Get active with environmental groups



Worship

Adult Class - 9:45 a.m.

May 5 - presentation by the Green Team.

Sunday Worship Service - 11:00 a.m.

This Sunday we celebrate Earth Sunday, which will be led by the Green Team.

Scripture: Ezekiel 37:1-10

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 – 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.

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.

Poems & Stories, May 19

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: btudlo@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 the first week of May (that's this week!).

First United Congregational UCC

is hosting a

Kid's Night Out!

(aka Parent's Night Off!!!)

Saturday, May 25th 5-9 pm

Drop off your kids (ages 3-12) for a fun-filled night of dinner, crafts, and a movie!

Please register in advance. There is a suggested donation of \$10 per child in lieu of a registration fee.



- *All volunteers have passed a background check.
- **There will be a CPR-certified volunteer on site.
- ***Contact welcome@fcindy.org with any additional questions.



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

Remember to take your reusable bags when you visit grocery and all other stores. (If you

want to share a green habit, please send it to noot.gibson.tds@gmail.com.)

Food Donations for the Northside Pantry

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

May Mission of the Month: UCC Mental Health Network

The May Mission of the Month supports the UCC Mental Health Network. Your FCC WISE Mental Health Team refers to this resource often as we work to become a WISE Congregation with your support. The UCC Mental Health Network works to reduce stigma and promote the inclusion of people with mental illness/brain disorders and their families in the life, leadership and work of the congregation.

Partner with us:

+While the diagnosis and treatment of serious mental illness is undergoing a revolution, the discrimination against persons with mental health concerns is still a fact of life.

+We believe that education through churches is one key to changing this discrimination.

+We believe that networking together within the UCC and with similar networks in other denominations and faith groups will help us in our efforts.

+We believe that advocacy for individuals and for social and legislative change will improve the life of many.

+We believe that through our own policies and within our own ministries we can model for the rest of society how to be caring congregations and a compassionate denomination.

Thank you for your support.

Pantry Items of the Month



During May we are collecting the following items: ramen noodles, macaroni and cheese, canned fruit, muffin mix, and laundry detergent.

Pastoral Care

Pastor Sarah will be out of the office serving the wider church May 7th – 9th. Pastor Carol can be reached on those days at (317)496-9732 or casowle@gmail.com. After May 9th, Pastor Sarah can be reached at (386) 478-9012 or at pastorsarah@fcindy.org.

THIS WEEK AT FIRST CONGREGATIONAL

Thursday, May 2	1:00 p.m.	Men's Lunch
Thursday, May 2	7:00 p.m.	Choir Rehearsal
Friday, May 3	12:00 p.m.	1857 Society Luncheon @ Marquette Manor
Sunday, May 5	9:45 a.m.	Sunday Adult Class
Sunday, May 5	11:00 a.m.	Worship – Earth Sunday
Sunday, May 5	12:15 p.m.	Summer Series Planning
Tuesday, May 7	10:00 a.m.	Witness & Welcome
Wednesday, May 8	5:30 p.m.	Just Peace Team Meeting
Wednesday, May 8	7:00 p.m.	Church Council
Thursday, May 9	7:00 p.m.	Choir Rehearsal
Sunday, May 12	9:45 a.m.	Sunday Adult Class
Sunday, May 12	11:00 a.m.	Worship w/ Affirmation of Ministry & Reception for Pastor Carol Sowle