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FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

E-pistle for the Week of May 30, 2019

Dear First Congregational:

This Sunday in worship we celebrate PRIDE Sunday during our 25th anniversary year of being Open and Affirming (ONA). What does being ONA mean to you? Here is our ONA Covenant:

Adopted January 2016:

In 1994 First Congregational UCC, Indianapolis, identified itself as an Open and Affirming congregation.

This began our commitment to end ignorance, fear, hatred, prejudice and discrimination against all people. We are called to follow the life and teachings of Jesus who denied no one and welcomed all. We do this by creating a safe place which is free from exploitation and abuse, and that is inclusive for all people to worship God.

We acknowledge that despite our best intentions, we are likely to make mistakes but we commit in advance to listen, confess, reconcile, restore and recommit in love on this journey. Therefore, we enter into this mutual covenant with each other and God to offer an extravagant welcome on behalf of our body of believers to all who would follow Jesus

regardless of gender, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, race, age, education, economic class, nationality, ethnicity, marital status, physical or psychological differences as equals in the life and ministry of our faith community.”

Join me this Sunday as we welcome us a special guest preacher, the Rev. Lawrence Richardson. Learn more about him here:

<http://www.ltrichardson.com/home.html>.

Blessings,
Pastor Sarah

Worship

Adult Class - 9:45 a.m.

June 2 - We continue to read and discuss "Anxious To Talk About It: Helping White Christians Talk Faithfully About Racism," by Carolyn B Helsel, a Disciples of Christ minister. We will read this book together during the Adult Ed hour, with time set aside to discuss.

Sunday Worship Service - 11:00 a.m.

This Sunday we celebrate **PRIDE** Sunday.

Pastor Sarah will lead worship and Rev. Lawrence Richardson will share the message from the perspective of a Black transgender UCC minister. Rev. Richardson is pastor of Linden Hills UCC in MN, and is author of *I Know What Heaven Looks Like: A Modern Day Coming of Age Story*.

Scripture: Hebrews 11:1-16



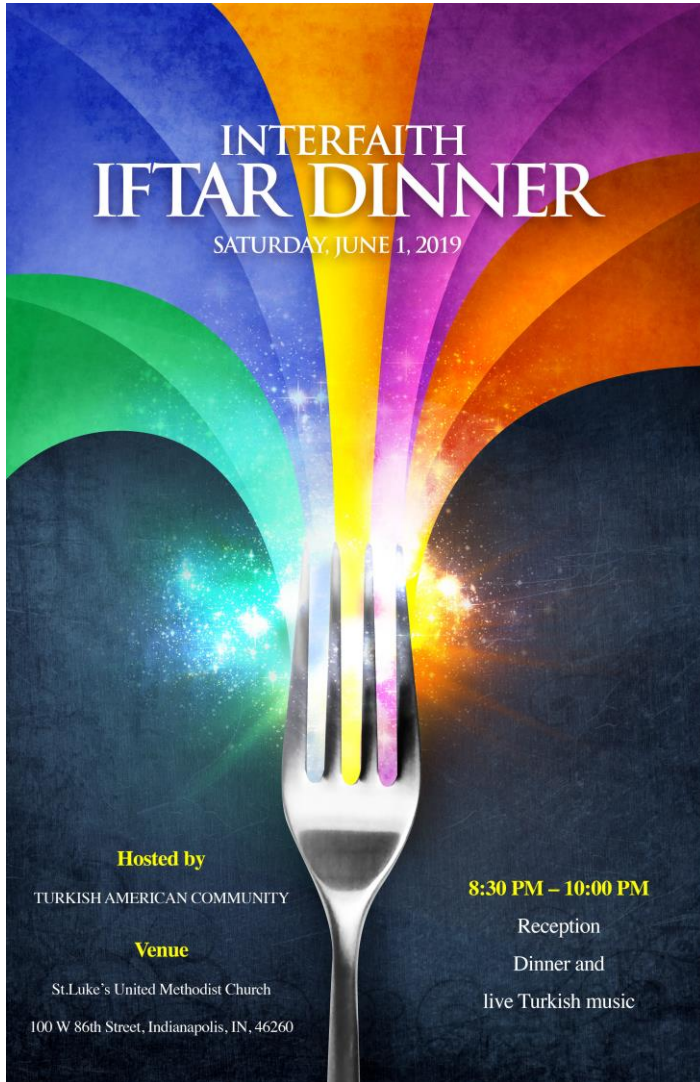
What's Happening at FCC

THIS SUNDAY!!! Picnic Pitch-In: Sunday, June 2



Please plan to attend a pitch-in picnic following worship this Sunday. The church will provide baked and fried chicken, so please bring salads, desserts, chips, or drinks. We'll be sharing fellowship and fun, with a few games also available to participate in. Depending on the weather, we'll gather in the playground or the Mayflower Room.

Interfaith Dinner: THIS SATURDAY, June 1 at St. Luke's UMC, 8:30 - 10pm



Time to Sign Up for PRIDE - Saturday, June 8th

There are sign up sheets in the vestibule for activities at Indy's PRIDE celebration on Saturday, June 8th. Please indicate as you are able to participate.



* **Breakfast:** UCC Parade participants from multiple UCC churches may meet at First Congregational for a light breakfast buffet about 8 am.

^ **Carpool:** We can carpool from FCC to downtown to ease parking. People might want to organize as those only doing the parade and those who'd like to stay at least for part of the festival.

* **Parade:** Usually involves time between 9:30 am - 11:30 and walking about 2 miles. We are looking at carpooling from the church to enable ease of parking.

* **Festival Booth:** Reserve a two hour time slot between noon and 6 pm. We hope to have 2 -3 members in the booth during these times.

Contact Bob Cook with questions or for more information.

Reduce, Reuse, Recycle Sale, Saturday June 15: 9 a.m. – 2 p.m.

Plan now to bring your useful (but now useless to you) items to sell.

As in the past, 6-foot tables are \$10; longer 8-foot ones are \$12 this year. You set up, sell, keep the income, and clean up. Items should be brought Friday afternoon, if possible.



As you do your spring cleaning, set aside those extras that you want to contribute to recycle to someone else while reducing your own inventory. If you think you do not have enough to sell to make purchasing a table feasible, you are still welcome to bring things for the church's table. In that case, please sign up for a couple hours overseeing the sale at that table. We also need a couple of people to be present at the church before the sale (preferably by 8 a.m. – bargain hunters arrive early) and as the sale begins when a crowd is often experienced.

Questions?? Inquiries to any Green Team member: Katie Booth, Nancy Dickinson, Rich Gibson, Bill Gillette, Ann Leatherman, Paul Terheide

Green Team Tip

Keep the welfare of the earth in mind as you work and play this weekend.

(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!

May Mission of the Month: UCC Mental Health Network



United Church of Christ
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 can be reached at (386) 478-9012 or at pastorsarah@fcindy.org.

Please note: Pastor Sarah will be on family leave (visiting her grandmother who has stage four cancer) from June 4-7. During that time,

THIS WEEK AT FIRST CONGREGATIONAL

Thursday, May 30	1:00 p.m.	Men's Lunch
Thursday, May 30	7:00 p.m.	Choir Rehearsal
Sunday, June 2	9:45 a.m.	Sunday Adult Class
Sunday, June 2	11:00 a.m.	Worship – PRIDE Sunday w/ guest preacher, Rev. Lawrence Richardson
Sunday, June 2	12:15 p.m.	Picnic Pitch-in
Tuesday, June 4	10:00 a.m.	Witness & Welcome
Tuesday, June 4	3:30 p.m.	Care & Connections
Wednesday, June 5	7:00 p.m.	Trustees
Thursday, June 6	7:00 p.m.	Choir Rehearsal
Saturday, June 8	8:00 a.m.	Pride Breakfast & Carpool to Parade
Sunday, June 9	9:45 a.m.	Sunday Adult Class
Sunday, June 9	11:00 a.m.	Worship - Pentecost