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FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

E-pistle for the Week of June 20, 2019

Dear First Congregational:

Our congregation is part of a large, national network of progressive congregations in the United Church of Christ. This week I'll be joining with delegates and visitors in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, for our 32nd General Synod, a big family reunion with worship, workshops, business, and fellowship. Joining me will be our Vice Moderator, Lianna Campos, in her role as a Member in Discernment in our Indiana-Kentucky Conference and Shannon Abbott as one of the Wellness Ministry leaders. I'll be working 12 hour days in my national role as Minister for Disabilities and Mental Health Justice, a busy week of staffing booths, supporting volunteers and guiding delegates through the resolution process for the Opioid Crisis Response Resolution and the Mental Health Network as a Historically Under-represented Group (HUG) resolution.

I invite you to keep our UCC church family in your prayers during this important time in the life of our denomination. The theme is, "Let your Light Shine Before Others" from Matthew 5:16. Follow along with us by going to this website for updates and

livestreaming: <https://www.synod2019.org/en/uccsynod2019>.

I remain grateful to each of you for your support of this ministry we share to the wider church. Special words of thanks to Carol Sowle as our Pastoral Care Associate for preaching and caring for the congregation this coming week. I look forward to sharing with you stories of great hope and love upon my return for worship on Sunday, June 30th.

Blessings,
Pastor Sarah



Worship

Adult Class - 9:45 a.m.

June 23 - We will continue to read and discuss the book, *Anxious to Talk About It: Helping White Christians Talk Faithfully About Racism*.

Sunday Worship Service - 11:00 a.m.

Pastor Carol will be preaching on "Who You Gonna Call?"

Scripture: Luke 8:26-39

What's Happening at FCC

Friday Night at the Movies, 6/21, 6:30ish

Piggy-backing on a St Peter's UCC program, let's meet on the third Friday each month at 6:30ish at Keystone Art Cinema at the Fashion Mall at Keystone. We'll decide which film(s) to see, get refreshments, and socialize. Then, after the movie, hang out at the Indie Lounge for more fellowship with our fellow FCC folk, as well as getting to know and share with St Peter's people. Questions? Contact Wendy Baldwin

You're invited to the United Church of Christ General Synod! June 21-25



You are invited to join First Congregational members and staff Lianna Campos, Pastor Sarah Lund and Shannon Abbott at the United Church of Christ General Synod, June 21st-25th! Go to: <https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PL6VgfHt6zEy7DVkQMy-HxeKJAIMnVfIUUA> for live streaming. The *Breaking the Silence Sunday Resolution*, co-sponsored by First Congregational, will be included in the Synod's agenda for discussion and vote.

A BIG THANKS to all who participated in and helped in any way with our "Reduce, Reuse,



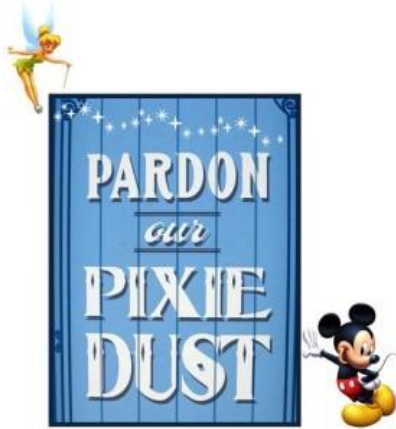
Recycle Sale" last Saturday.

Although the weather was terrible which reduced our bargain hunters to almost zero, we did make \$101 and cleared out of the church much "stuff" we no longer use or need. We still have a couple of TV's to get rid of-- if you have any ideas on "how," please see Wendy.
The Green Team

Bread for the World Update

Before, during, and after worship last Sunday we wrote 56 letters to our Representatives and Senators urging their support of H. Res. 189 in the House and support for increasing U.S. funding of global nutrition programs to \$250 million in the 2020 appropriations bill. If you were away for Father's Day and still want to participate, you may write or type letters at home and bring them to church on June 23. We just learned that Rep. Susan Brooks has become a co-sponsor of H. Res. 189, so be sure to thank her for her support of that but urge her support of the \$250 million for global nutrition. You can check the June *Colony* for information on the issues. Follow this link: <https://www.bread.org/get-offering-letters-toolkit> for the latest sample letters. Scroll down to "Sample letters to

Congress" for examples to both Representatives and Senators. Thanks to everyone who participated. - Sue Chapman



Pardon Our Dust

We are in the process of 'refreshing' the coat room - cleaning out and sprucing up, hopefully done within a week! This is not an endpoint for that room - there are so many ways we could use that space as we imagine our future with this wonderful building. Wendy (House and Grounds) and the Trustees continue to address a long list of maintenance, clean up, and improvement opportunities. For this particular project special thanks go to Nancy, Lianna, and Randy! Any questions or concerns about what has happened to stuff in the coat room, please contact Karen Walker.

Buzz & Pitch-In - Sunday, June 30th



Please join us after worship on Sunday, June 30th for a Buzz discussion and pitch-in as we reflect on the Playground. Come with your thoughts, questions and feedback about our experiment with a space in our sanctuary where all ages can gather to experience worship. We started the Playground the first Sunday of Advent and we want to hear from you.

Parlor dreams and wish list Brainstorming Session, Saturday, July 6 at 10am

The Parlor is widely used for a variety of purposes, and is showing signs of wear and tear. Several have made suggestions in recent years about next steps for this

area. Please come to share your thoughts, or email Wendy Baldwin with ideas and suggestions.

Spiritual Explorers, Sunday, July 7, 12:15 PM (in the library)

FCC Spiritual Explorers will discuss which spiritual practices to focus on in coming months, such as silence, gratitude, poetry, journaling, music, and ways God is calling us. All are welcome!

Green Team Tip

Put your electronic devices to sleep. Unplug them at the end of the day; even better, turn off the power strip if they're plugged into one. (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!

June Mission of the Month: Damien Center



Founded in 1987, the Damien Center is the oldest and largest organization in Indiana addressing the health needs of individuals with HIV. Currently the Damien Center serves over 4,000 individuals affected by HIV/AIDS through a comprehensive and innovative approach to HIV care and prevention.

Even though we hear of the many achievements in medications used to treat HIV here are a couple statistics to keep in mind. In the general population, 1 out of every 6 persons infected with HIV does not know it. 51% of youth between 13 – 24 who are living with HIV, have never been tested. Let's help keep HIV testing and education accessible to Central Indiana through our support of the Damien Center.

Pantry Items of the Month



During June we are collecting the following items: pudding mix, jello, canned vegetables, soup and toothpaste.

Pastoral Care

Pastor Sarah can be reached at (386) 478-9012 or at pastorsarah@fcindy.org. Pastor Sarah will be at the UCC General Synod from June 20-26. During this time, please contact Pastor Carol for pastoral care needs at (317) 496-9732 or casowle@gmail.com.

THIS WEEK AT FIRST CONGREGATIONAL

Friday, June 21	6:30 p.m.	Friday Night at the Movies (Keystone Art Cinema)
Saturday, June 22	5:00 p.m.	Parent's Night Out
Sunday, June 23	9:45 a.m.	Sunday Adult Class
Sunday, June 23	11:00 a.m.	Worship w/ Pastor Carol Sowle preaching
Thursday, June 27	11:45 a.m.	Women's Lunch
Thursday, June 27	1:00 p.m.	Men's Lunch
Sunday, June 30	9:45 a.m.	Sunday Adult Class
Sunday, June 30	11:00 a.m.	Worship
Sunday, June 30	12:30 p.m.	Buzz: Playground Feedback w/light pitch-in lunch