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FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

E-pistle for the Week of June 27, 2019

Dear First Congregational:

I returned safely home last night from our United Church of Christ national biennial gathering, the 32nd General Synod in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, graciously hosted by the Wisconsin Conference of the UCC. What a fabulous time being Church together!

Highlights include:

1. Passage of the Break the Silence Sunday Resolution co-sponsored by our congregation
2. Passage of the Mental Health Network Resolution becoming a Historically Underrepresented Group
3. Passage of the Green New Deal Resolution supporting our mission to be a Green Church
4. Creating space for individuals and groups to experience care as we provided a Self-Care Suite and Community Care Space for the first time at General Synod
5. Standing on the arrest line with Rev. Traci Blackmon and other interfaith leaders at the Milwaukee ICE building to witness to God's desire for justice and peace for refugees
6. Celebrating fellowship with the Indiana-Kentucky Conference delegates and Conference

Minister, the Rev. Chad Abbott and Shannon Abbott

7. Sharing reflections about disabilities justice and mental health justice at the Health and Wholeness Advocacy luncheon
8. Experiencing the Gala dinner and Gospel Choir from Trinity United Church of Christ of Chicago
9. Learning from civil rights leader and thinker Ruby Sales about systemic racism and the Church
10. Speaking on a panel at the Open and Affirming National Gathering about the intersectionality of race, ability, gender identity and sexual orientation
11. Supporting youth as they wrestled with the tension within the wider UCC of the diversity of views as they realized not all UCC churches are Open and Affirming
12. Supporting Shannon Abbott in her Wellness Ministry Workshop, offering healing and positive energy to delegates
13. Speaking at the Members in Discernment Breakfast an encouraging word as they discern and navigate their vocational journey in the midst of caring for their whole selves: mind, body, and spirit
14. Meeting with Conference Ministers from across the UCC and learning about their churches desire to be WISE (Welcoming, Inclusive, Supportive, and Engaged) for mental health and A2A (Accessible to All)
15. Learning about how our churches can be involved in a healing response to the opioid crisis and train ourselves to respond to overdoses in a way that saves lives
16. Celebrating the newly formed fellowship of Latinx in the UCC called The Collectivo
17. Electing our new Associate General Minister, the Rev. Dr. Karen Georgia Thompson, a colleague and friend of mine from our days serving together in the Florida Conference of the UCC
18. The robust discussion as we re-elected our General Minister and President, the Rev. Dr. John Dorhauer, about the role of diversity in our top leadership positions
19. Witnessing our own Vice Moderator Lianna Campos provide important leadership as she hosted a "Be the Church" workshop and faithfully created space for people to learn and heal
20. Connecting with old friends and making new friends as we seek to be the Body of Christ together and being reminded that First Congregation UCC in Indianapolis is part of a broad network of congregations across the country and together, with God's help, we can do great things!

Save the date: the 33rd General Synod will be July 16-20, 2021 in Kansas City!

Blessings,
Pastor Sarah

Worship

Adult Class - 9:45 a.m.

June 30 - 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 Sarah will be preaching on "Going to Jerusalem."

Scripture: Luke 9:51-62

What's Happening at FCC

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 Prayground. 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 Prayground the first Sunday of Advent and we want to hear from you.

Parlor Dreams Brainstorming Session - Saturday, July 6, 10am

Please come to a brainstorming session on Saturday, 7/6, at 10 am. 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 me 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

This week's Tip is from Sandy Woods, with our deepest thanks: The Mailing Station at 71st and Binford will accept cardboard boxes and anyone needing boxes can go pick them up there whenever they are open. They will also take the Styrofoam popcorn and small blow-up plastic "pillows" used for packing. (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.

THIS WEEK AT FIRST CONGREGATIONAL

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	12:15 p.m.	Buzz w/ Pitch-in
Tuesday, July 2	1:00 p.m.	Care & Connections
Saturday, July 6	10:00 a.m.	Parlor Brainstorming Session
Saturday, July 6	10:30 a.m.	Bell Choir
Sunday, July 7	9:45 a.m.	Sunday Adult Class
Sunday, July 7	11:00 a.m.	Worship
Sunday, July 7	12:15 p.m.	Spiritual Explorers