

 [FirstCongregationalUCCIndy](#)

 [Forward](#)



FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

E-pistle for the Week of July 18, 2019

Dear First Congregational,

We are facing a spiritual crisis at the border of our nation. Many people of faith are asking, “how can we allow people, who are children of God, to be treated this way?” The reports and stories of human rights violations are alarming. When our sacred text makes it clear what God asks of us, then we face a spiritual crisis of faith when we live in violation of the teachings of scripture. The scripture speaks to the challenges we face at the border. I invite you to join me in spiritual reflection and discern with me how God is inviting us to respond as a congregation of people of faith.

Leviticus 19:33-34 “When a stranger sojourns with you in your land, you shall not do them wrong. You shall treat the stranger who sojourns with you as the native among you, and you shall love them as yourself, for you were strangers in the land of Egypt: I am the Lord your God.”

Matthew 25:35 “For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me

drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me.”

Hebrews 13:2 “Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for thereby some have entertained angels unawares.”

Zechariah 7:9-10 “Thus says the Lord of hosts, Render true judgments, show kindness and mercy to one another, do not oppress the widow, the orphan, the sojourner, or the poor, and let none of you devise evil against another in your heart.”

Blessings,
Pastor Sarah

As people of faith and as the United Church of Christ we are called to love our neighbor and right now our immigrant neighbors need our love. Here are resources to provide information, sanctuary, and advocacy for our siblings who are being targeted and threatened by ICE raids.

- Informed Immigrant: [Know Your Rights](#)
- CLASP [Immigration Raid Resources](#)
- National Immigration Law Center [How to Be Prepared for an Immigration Raid](#)
- American Immigration Lawyers Association [Local Raids Response Hotlines and Contact Information Including Atlanta | Baltimore/Washington, D.C. | Chicago | Denver | Houston | Los Angeles and San Diego | Miami | New Orleans | New York City | San Francisco](#)
- Fair Immigration Reform Movement [Community Raid Preparedness Checklist](#)
- National Immigrant Justice Center [Community Resources](#)
- Catholic Legal Immigration Network, Inc. [Rapid Response Toolkit](#)
- Immigrant Defense Project **Know Your Rights Flyers** in [English](#) or [Spanish](#)
- United We Dream [Know Your Power, Know Your Rights](#)
- Center for American Progress [tweet thread](#) with resources including info-graphics on your rights, legal assistance numbers by location
- American Immigration Lawyers Association **Know Your Rights Handouts** in [English](#) or [Spanish](#)

Sanctuary Resources:

- [Find a Sanctuary Coalition Near You](#)
- [Rapid Response Toolkit for Faith Allies](#)

- [#SacredResistancePledge](#) to open your house of worship in case of raids
- [Resources on how to become a Sanctuary congregation, build a coalition, etc.](#)
- For step-by-step instructions on how to accompany families targeted by raids and put pressure on the administration to stop them, visit: <http://bit.ly/FaithfulRapidResponse>.

Worship

Adult Class - 9:45 a.m.

July 21 - 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.

This Sunday we celebrate music as we join together in a Hymn Sing!

Scripture: Psalm 100



What's Happening at FCC

Friday Night at the Movies, 7/19, 6:30pm



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.

YA Game Night, 6pm July 20th



All young adults are invited to a pizza and game night on Saturday, July 20th at 6pm in the parlor! Bring your favorite game and a friend if you'd like and your competitive edge for an evening of fun! For more info, contact Lianna at lcampos33@gmail.com or 317-954-1601.

Borderland Trip - Deadline July 31st!



Below is an excerpt from Rev Chad Abbott's report on the recent General Synod. He is leading a group of IKC volunteers to the border next year, January 14-19, to help and work with activists protesting the mistreatment of refugees. A fee of \$200 is required, plus you must arrange and pay for your own transportation.

It would be really cool if someone from FCC were to go along on this trip. Please let Pastor Sarah or Rich Gibson know if you or anyone you know are interested. Please note the short time on this! Chad wants to hear from interested parties by July 31 (two weeks from yesterday).

Excerpt from Rev. Chad Abbott's IKC report from General Synod:

*"One of the other important conversations coming out of Synod was about the ongoing crisis at our nation's southern border and the treatment of children. Several IKC folks went to the border this January 2019; we spoke at annual gathering about our experience. I would like to invite you to continue the conversation by joining me on a trip to the border. We will be taking a group of 15 people to the border in Arizona with our partners at the Good Shepherd UCC in January 2020. These partners already work and advocate there. Look for a separate email coming out next week. But don't wait. **If you'd like to be on this trip, email me by July 31st at c.abbott@ikcucc.org to express your interest.**"*

Upcoming Labyrinth Walks



FCC Spiritual Explorers will focus on walking local labyrinths on **four Sundays: August 11, September 8, October 13, and November 24**. Please mark your calendars and watch for more details in the August *Pilgrim Colony*.

Green Team Tip

Try to find a good fresh vegetable and fruit stand to eat local produce. It helps our local farmers and tastes better too. (If you want to share a green habit, please send it to hoot.gibson.tds@gmail.com.)



Family Promise Clothing Drive in August

For those of you used to spring and fall clothing drives, this year Family Promise is just doing one in August. So we will not be doing a big push this year. Bring clothing donations to the church in tall white trash bags that are securely tied.

Food Donations for the Northside Pantry

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

July Mission of the Month: Underneath It All

This mission provides underwear and school uniforms for children in IHN/Family Promise Aftercare. The Aftercare Program of Family Promise/IHN helps homeless families who get housing remain housed. You can help in any of the ways listed below.

1. **Buy underwear/socks/undershirts/underpants** in any size from **child size 4 to adult Large** - boys or girls. Put in the white laundry baskets during **July**.
2. **Donate new or gently used pants, shirts, skirts, or jumpers**-all sizes from child size 4 to adult. **Shirts** must have collars and can be **any solid color**, without decoration or logo. **Pants, skirts, or jumpers** must be a solid color (**tan, navy or black**) with no decoration.

3. **Donate \$ in July to buy uniforms or underwear in-** change, dollar bills and checks designated **Underneath It All** in the memo line will help. We will buy clothes with the money donated.

With the year-round school calendar, school starts again in early Aug for many schools, so new uniforms will be needed soon. Past donations have provided each child in the Aftercare Program at least 1 full new uniform including underwear and socks. This is much appreciated by the families and Family Promise, so please continue to be generous.

For questions or help with this ministry, please contact Sandy Wood csjlwood@att.net 317-863-8238 (home) or 317-225-6206 (cell).

Pantry Items of the Month



During July we are collecting the following items: juice, pasta, canned meat, pancake mix, shampoo and conditioner.

Pastoral Care

Pastor Sarah may be reached at (386) 478-9012 or at pastorsarah@fcindy.org until July 20. She will be on vacation July 20-26. While she is away, Pastor Carol can be reached at (317)496-9732 or casowle@gmail.com.

THIS WEEK AT FIRST CONGREGATIONAL

Friday, July 19	6:30 p.m.	Friday Night at the Movies (Keystone Art Cinema)
Saturday, July 20	10:30 a.m.	Bell Choir Rehearsal
Saturday, July 20	6:00 p.m.	YA Game Night
Sunday, July 21	9:45 a.m.	Sunday Adult Class
Sunday, July 21	11:00 a.m.	Worship - Hymn Sing
Thursday, July 25	11:45 a.m.	Women's Lunch
Thursday, July 25	1:00 p.m.	Men's Lunch
Thursday, July 25	6:00 p.m.	Community Singing
Sunday, July 28	9:45 a.m.	Sunday Adult Class
Sunday, July 28	11:00 a.m.	Worship