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FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

E-pistle for the Week of August 8, 2019

Dear First Congregational,

On Sunday we enjoyed being church together and celebrated the addition of six new members to First Congregational! In each conversation leading up to membership, I kept thinking, "Wow. We are so fortunate to be receiving these incredible people into membership." Our new members bring a depth of life experiences, faith journeys, questions, and hopes to our congregation. As we continue to grow, I continue to thank each one of you for helping our church be "a place to belong, a place to heal, and a place to love."

We welcomed into membership: Carol and Chris Shank, Jenn Norris, Daniel Grahn, Morgan Dickason, and David Besel. Please join me in building relationships with our newest members and also keep an open spirit to others who come, discovering the best kept secret of progressive Christianity in Indianapolis.

Blessings,
Pastor Sarah

Worship

Adult Class - 9:45 a.m.

August 11 - 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 preach on "Heartfelt Investments."

Scripture: Luke 12:32-34

What's Happening at FCC

Technical Difficulties – It has come to our attention that some emails and electronic newsletters are being returned or are not being received for other reasons. We apologize for this inconvenience and are working with our service providers to resolve this issue.

Upcoming Labyrinth Walk, Sunday, August 11, 1:30 p.m.



THIS SUNDAY, August 11, FCC Spiritual Explorers will meet at St. Peter's UCC (Carmel, IN) at 1:30pm to learn more about the labyrinth and to walk the path of the labyrinth. **If you plan to walk the labyrinth at St. Peter's on Sunday, please email either Pastor Sarah, pastorsarah@fcindy.org, or susanna-judith, sjrae@iu.edu ASAP to let them know.** Thank you!

Indiana Recycling at Robin Run - Sunday, August 11, 7:00 p.m.

All are invited to hear Allyson Michell 'Guru' of Indiana Recycling next Sunday, August 11 at 7 p.m. at Robin Run Community Room.

Friday Night at the Movies, 8/16, 6:30ish



Join us on the third Friday of each month at 6:30ish at Keystone Art Cinema in 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. Questions? Contact Wendy Baldwin



feeding children creates productive citizens

August 22, 2019 at 4:30pm
Noblesville First United Methodist Church
2051 Monument St. Noblesville, IN 46060

Opportunity with Senator Young! August 22 - Please register!

The Bread for the World organization is sponsoring a town hall focusing on domestic hunger issues, particularly in regard to children. There will be several speakers highlighting issues and impacts related to hunger throughout childhood (see brochure), and Senator Young will also speak to the topic. He has been a great sponsor of aid packages for fighting childhood hunger globally. We would like to have at least 10 people from our congregation attend this event to learn and to show support and encouragement for fighting childhood hunger domestically! We will be arranging car pools. Please register so they have a good count! - there is a link below and there is a map at the link. For any questions, please call Karen Walker at 317-319-8950. More will be shared in the weeks leading up to the event.

Help hungry Hoosier kids!

- Indiana ranks 42nd in infant mortality.
- 1 in 6 Hoosier children are food insecure.
- Food insecurity is rampant on college campuses.

Event Purposes:

1. Create urgency to better address child hunger in Indiana, and improve their lives.
2. Deepen engagement of more Hoosiers in solutions to child hunger.

Event Program:

- Dr. Wade Clapp, Chair of Pediatrics, IU School of Medicine, on nutrition & infant mortality
- Andrew Hartley, Superintendent, Plymouth Schools, on good nutrition and academic success

- Dr. Harriet Giles, Auburn Univ Hunger Solutions Institute on hunger on college campuses
- Sen. Todd Young on the reality of a Fair Shot for All Children related to hunger issues
- Dave Miner with a call to action

Sponsored by Bread for the World – Indiana

Register to attend:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/a-fair-shot-for-all-children-tickets-64610049397?ref=eios>

Nicaragua Day with Buzz & Pitch-In: Sunday, August 25th - Jeanette Salley, a missionary to Nicaragua will be our guest at FCC on Sunday, August 25th. Join us in a pitch-in lunch after church and learn about her work as a Christian educator in rural Nicaragua. Our contributions to OCWM help to support her.

**IKC Women’s Retreat – Quiet Spaces: A Time for Meditation & Storytelling
(Deadline: August 31st)**



The 2019 IKC Women’s Retreat will take place Friday, September 27th - Sunday, September 29th at the Benedict Inn Retreat and Conference Center in Beech Grove, IN.

The retreat will be co-led by Rev. Dr. Monica Ouellette and Rev. Shannon Abbott with additional workshops led by Rev. Dr. Toni Hawkins, Rev. Sarah Frische-Mouri Hannigan, and Paula Neibert. Please plan to join us as we enter into the stories of Mary and Martha, and honor our own stories through creative and unique ways such as *bibliodrama*, *journaling*, *labyrinth walks*, *praying with beads*, *meditation*, *healing oils*, and sharing together in the *breaking of bread*.

The cost to attend the retreat is \$125 for Friday and Saturday only or \$140 for all three days (meals and overnight accommodations included). **The deadline to register is August 31, 2019.**

You can register online below, or download and mail this printable brochure (see below) along with your payment to:

IKC UCC

Attn: Rebecca Braganza

1100 West 42nd Street, Suite 155
Indianapolis, IN 46208)

*IKC Women's Retreat 2019 Brochure
REGISTER ONLINE

*There are also a few copies of the detailed registration brochure in the church office. Pick one up to check out the retreat schedule of events and register!

Green Lunch on Sunday, September 8th

On Sunday September 8th, the Green Team will host a lunch featuring foods with a low carbon footprint. The lunch will include salad, soup, an entree and dessert. During the meal, diners will get tips and advice about cooking and eating sustainably. We want a good count to we prepare the right amount, so please RSVP at your earliest convenience to Rich Gibson, hoot.gibson.tds@gmail.com.

Thank you!

Green Team Tip

Don't forget reusable shopping bags when doing your grocery shopping. Carry them into dry goods stores to avoid plastic there as well. (If you want to share a green habit, please send it to hoot.gibson.tds@gmail.com.)



Family Promise Clothing Drive, August 2-18

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. If you don't have white kitchen trash bags, we have some at church. Please consider donating to this worthwhile ministry.

Last fall we collected 60 bags of clothing for this clothing drive. This year we hope to equal or surpass that amount. Family Promise usually has 2 clothing drives yearly, 1 in spring and 1 in fall, but this year they are focusing on only 1 drive so we need get as many bags as we can to help them out!

Food Donations for the Northside Pantry

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

August Mission of the Month: CEPAD (The Council of Christian Churches in Nicaragua)

CEPAD is an organization of Nicaraguan churches that was founded in 1972 by Dr. Gustavo Parajón in response to a major earthquake. Since then its roll has expanded. In addition to aiding during natural disasters, CEPAD now helps Nicaraguans escape from cycles of poverty and hunger. Access to basic services is often nonexistent, especially in rural areas. Women and the elderly are among the most disadvantaged. CEPAD provides training in sustainable agriculture, economic development for women, community organization and education. CEPAD runs a Christian radio station and attends to immigrants and refugees who are traveling through Nicaragua. Currently, by training given to pastors, communities can heal from the emotional and physical trauma of this past year. First Congregational Church members participate in the program for those who wish to send delegations and form partnerships to help local communities. Your donation will assist CEPAD in continuing these important programs.

Pantry Items of the Month



During August we are collecting the following items: canned peaches and pears, canned beans, ramen noodles and white bathroom tissue.

Pastoral Care

Pastor Sarah may be reached at (386) 478-9012 or at pastorsarah@fcindy.org.

THIS WEEK AT FIRST CONGREGATIONAL

Thursday, August 8	1:00 p.m.	Men's Lunch
Saturday, August 10	10:30 a.m.	Bell Choir Rehearsal
Sunday, August 11	9:45 a.m.	Sunday Adult Class
Sunday, August 11	11:00 a.m.	Worship
Sunday, August 11	12:15 p.m.	Worship & Faith Meeting Spiritual Explorers Labyrinth
Sunday, August 11	1:30 p.m.	Walk @ St. Peter's UCC – Carmel
Tuesday, August 13	10:00 a.m.	Witness & Welcome

Wednesday, August 14	7:00 p.m.	Church Council
Friday, August 16	6:30 p.m.	Friday Night at the Movies
Saturday, August 17	10:30 a.m.	Bell Choir Rehearsal
Sunday, August 18	9:45 a.m.	Sunday Adult Class
Sunday, August 18	11:00 a.m.	Worship with Rev. Elizabeth Price & Rev. Dr. Pat Larracey preaching