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FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

E-pistle for the Week of August 15, 2019

Dear First Congregational,

Poem by Ganga White

*What if our religion was each other,
If our practice was our life; if prayer our words?
What if the temple was the Earth, if forests were our church,
if holy waters - the rivers, lakes, and oceans?
What if meditation was our relationships, if the teacher was life,
if wisdom was self-knowledge,
if Love was the center of our being?*

This poem arrived in my email inbox as a gift. I share it with you and if you are so moved, I invite you to share it with another. Let us spread words of love today.

Blessings,

Pastor Sarah

Worship

Adult Class - 9:45 a.m.

August 18 - 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.

Rev. Elizabeth Price & Rev. Dr. Patrick Larracy will preach on "Baptism By Fire."

Scripture: Luke 12:49-56

On Sunday, Pastor Sarah will be serving the wider church as a guest preacher at Community Congregational UCC in Amherst, OH, to bless their newly renovated Accessible-to-All sanctuary and present them with an award from the UCC Disabilities Ministries Board. She will also lead an educational workshop about disabilities and mental health justice. Thank you for supporting this ministry with your prayers.

A note from your music designer

In 1976, First Congregational Church installed our Schlicker Pipe Organ. Worship music played on pipe organ has become a hallmark of the sound of First Congregational Church, yet that tradition is only 43 years young! After spending a year in the role of music designer & organist, I've learned a lot about the history of this particular Schlicker organ and have been surprised to learn that it was built for much diversity. The preceding organists have stayed close to home in the realm of classical organ pieces, but at the instrument's age of 43, I am nurturing its mid-life crisis in the presence of what the new millennium's needs for worship have become. Believe it or not, this beautiful instrument can still stand the test of time in 2019. My role as music designer allows me to draw from my skills as an orchestrator and finally dust off the stops that have been neglected. This Sunday I plan to feature Brazilian Pipe Organ Jazz! There's a musical journey that goes on with a piece of jazz music in the form of improvisation that I think mirrors our journey through the life of faith. I hope you will enjoy in the coming year not only continued use of classical organ music, but also how this organ was built for many ways to praise God through music of all genres. - Sean Baker

Advent Alternative Worship

Are you interested in joining a creative group to plan and implement an Alternative Worship experience for Advent? Do you want to plan a series of small group studies/experiences? Large group sessions that might include yoga, guided meditation, massage, Reiki, Frankincense and Myrrh? Something else? Any and all creative people

welcome! Please see Elizabeth Price after worship this Sunday or email her at eprice235@gmail.com The group will convene on **September 8th** after church.

What's Happening at FCC

TOMORROW! 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

Prayers for Pastor Sarah during the Pastor's Protest Fast to end child hunger in Indiana as part of the witness for Bread for the World. Fasting will be **Monday, August 19–Thursday, August 22.**



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

Do you use refillable water bottles and avoid plastic? (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

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|-----------------------------|-------------------|---|
| 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 17 | 11:00 a.m. | Worship w/ Rev. Elizabeth Price & Rev. Dr. Pat Larracey preaching |
| Wednesday, August 21 | 5:00 p.m. | Mental Health Team Meeting |
| Thursday, August 21 | 11:45 a.m. | Women's Lunch |
| Thursday, August 21 | 1:00 p.m. | Men's Lunch |
| Thursday, August 21 | 4:30 p.m. | Opportunity w/ Senator Young: A Fair Shot for All Children (at Noblesville UMC) |
| Saturday, August 24 | 10:30 a.m. | Bell Choir Rehearsal |
| Sunday, August 25 | 9:45 a.m. | Sunday Adult Class |
| Sunday, August 25 | 11:00 a.m. | Worship |
| Sunday, August 25 | 12:30 p.m. | Nicaragua Buzz w/ pitch-in lunch |