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FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

E-pistle for the Week of September 5, 2019

Dear First Congregational,

One of the best parts of being part of a church family is that we've got each other. We show up for each other and we pray for each other. We laugh and we cry together. We are there for each other.

All this being together is what it means to be the church. I hope you can be with us this Sunday as we explore what it means to be a Green Church in an age of climate crisis. Our worship and our "Green lunch" invites us to explore this theme.

After the Green lunch we will take a quick trip over to explore and walk the outdoor labyrinth at our neighboring church, Second Presbyterian on Meridian. Walking the labyrinth outside, praying for God's good Creation, and being together. I am looking forward to Sunday!

Blessings,

Pastor Saran

Worship

Adult Class - 9:45 a.m.

Sept 8 - We finish "Conclusion: The Anxious Bench" from Anxious To Talk About It, and debrief.

Sunday Worship Service - 11:00 a.m.

Rev. Dr. Sarah Lund will preach on "It's Not Easy Being Green."

Scripture: Genesis 1:28-31a

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!

Spiritual Explorers Labyrinth Walks

FC's second 2019 labyrinth-walking experience will be on **September 8** at Second Presbyterian Church, 7700 N. Meridian St., **following FC's Green Team's 12:15 lunch**. Persons who attend the Green Lunch, as well as those who do not, can all meet at **2:00** at Second Pres to walk the outside labyrinth.

What's Happening at FC

(See September Colony for monthly announcements and further details.)

Choir Rehearsals begin TONIGHT!

Hello FC folk! Hope everyone is having a good summer. The choir will be starting back up soon. Rehearsals are on Thursday nights from 7:00 to 8:30 PM beginning tonight, September 5th. Our first Sunday service is this Sunday, September 8th, with the usual pre-service rehearsal time of 10:15 AM. We welcome new members. If anyone is interested in joining the choir, please email Julie at juliehouston@comcast.net. We would love to have you join us!

TONIGHT! In Harmony: a community singing group

Sally McSpadden is starting a new singing group, which will be hosted by First Congregational. It is called "In Harmony", and is a non-auditioned, non-performing, intergenerational singing group for ALL voices. Music is taught aurally, no music reading ability necessary. There will be occasional special guests speaking on a range of topics including mindful movement and breath. It will meet twice a month on Thursdays, from 6-7 pm, in the Mayflower Room. The dates are 9/5, 9/19, 10/3, 10/17, 11/7, and 11/21. A small fee will apply, with the bulk going to support First Congregational. This group will include people from outside our church, and is also open to anyone in our church family. If you are interested, learn more about it on Facebook - facebook.com/IndyInHarmony, or by email - IndyInHarmony@gmail.com. For general questions, contact Wendy Baldwin or Bob Cook.

September Buzz: Witness to the Southern US Border

Sunday, September 22, 12:30 p.m.

Witness can take many forms and for this event, Jill Olinger, member of St. Peter's UCC in Carmel, and President of the Indiana Kentucky Conference, will share stories of a personal journey of more than 10,000 miles and taken over 10 weeks in early 2019 along the US/Mexico border. The stories will be shared and conversation will be guided based on the UCC's 3 Great Loves: Love of Children, Love of Neighbor, and Love of Creation. The stories are based on Jill's experiences and interactions at the border when someone simply shows up and is willing to be present, to see, to hear, and to learn.

Around a Table

Would you like to build connections with other members outside of worship? Those interested will be placed in groups to get together for meals or snacks over a 4 month period. We will then repeat with new sign ups and new groups! If interested, please complete the attached [sign up sheet](#) and return it to church (basket in the narthex) by September 22. Presented by Care & Connections board – please contact Karen Walker (317-319-8950 or Karen.e.d.walker@gmail.com) for any questions or help with sign up.

Sign Up for "FC's Got Talent"

Do you have a gift or talent that you're willing to share with your FC family at our 'talent show' on Oct 4? These can include various acts of music, song, dialogue (3-5 minutes in length), as well as displays of art, writing, handicrafts, etc. Think now about what you want to share with us, and sign up by 9/22 with your talent on the sheets in the Narthex. Questions? Contact Wendy Baldwin or Bob Cook.

Chautauqua

This year, a number of FCers attended one of the weekly programs at Chautauqua, NY, including Dan and Judy Kaufman, Nancy Dickinson, Rich and Jackie Gibson, and Cindy Cox. Cindy's attendance was worth underlining: all her expenses were paid by an anonymous donor!

Now that autumn is almost here, it's time to pick another recipient for this wonderful grant. It could be you! Details on how to apply will be forthcoming soon. Stay tuned!

Green Team Tip

Fall is a good time to plant trees. Does your yard need one or two? (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. **In the month of August, we donated 155 lbs of food and 5 lbs of non-food items!!!** Please keep them coming!

September Mission of the Month: Hoosier Interfaith Power and Light

HIPL is an interfaith organization dedicated to advocating for sustainable living and changes to protect God's creation of life on this earth, both human and others. Its mission is to educate congregations on sustainable living practices that will reduce our carbon footprint, and promote the use of renewable energy resources. They were instrumental in helping us start and maintain the study and work process that has led to our efforts to decrease our church's carbon foot print with changes to our lighting and now the installation of a photovoltaic system that will allow the church to capture part of its energy from a renewable source. The organization is funded primarily from contributions from its member congregations. Please support them with the September Mission of the Month.

Pantry Items of the Month

During September we are collecting the following items: bread, baking mixes, canned vegetables, and deodorant.

Pastoral Care

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

THIS WEEK AT FIRST CONGREGATIONAL

Thursday, September 5

1:00 p.m.

Men's Lunch

Thursday, September 5	6:00 p.m.	In Harmony
Thursday, September 5	7:00 p.m.	Choir Rehearsal
Sunday, September 8	9:45 a.m.	Sunday Adult Class
Sunday, September 8	11:00 a.m.	Worship
Sunday, September 8	12:15 p.m.	Green Lunch
Sunday, September 8	2:00 p.m.	Spiritual Explorers Labyrinth Walk @ Second Presbyterian
Wednesday, September 11	11:00 a.m.	Music Support Team
Wednesday, September 11	5:00 p.m.	Mental Health Team
Wednesday, September 11	7:00 p.m.	Church Council
Sunday, September 15	9:45 a.m.	Sunday Adult Class
Sunday, September 15	11:00 a.m.	Worship
Sunday, September 15	12:15 p.m.	Outreach & Service