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FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Epistle for the Week of September 26, 2019

Dear First Congregational,

I invite you to join me in offering prayers of support for our Administrative Assistant, Shannon Abbott, as she prepares for her ecclesiastical council **this Sunday at 3pm at St. Peter's UCC in Carmel** (Shannon's home congregation). Shannon is already ordained, but this meeting will invite members of the Southeast Association (that is you all) to vote on whether or not she should be offered the opportunity for privilege of call, that is, having her ordination in the United Church of Christ. We are blessed by her work among us and it is exciting to see her ministry unfold. Shannon assures us she is happy to continue to serve as our part-time Administrative Assistant even as she looks to expand her wellness and healing ministry in the UCC.

As part of her process, Shannon wrote a nearly 30 page paper about her theology and why the UCC is a good fit for her ministry. I want to share an excerpt with you here:

"The UCC understanding that 'God is still speaking' means that the Spirit of God is still

blowing through God's people and is still relevant in the lives of people today, and that as Christ's Church we can offer hope and healing to those who have been wounded. There is a great need for healing in our world, especially in relation to Church woundedness. There are too many stories out there of how churches have caused pain and suffering where there should have been hope and healing and have created division where there should have been unity. People who have been wounded by the church are often reluctant to step foot into a church, because of the trauma they have experienced in the past. The UCC as a united and uniting Church has the opportunity to be a place of hope and healing. In some cases that may mean we need to widen our vision of what ministry can and does look like."

Let's pray for the Spirit's wisdom to guide Shannon and the UCC as we discern together how God is calling us to Be the Church together.

Blessings,
Pastor Sarah

Worship

Adult Ed. Time on the IndyGo Red Line, Sunday, September 29

*9:00 AM Meet at the Redline Platform, 66th Street and North College (parking on access street west side of College at 66th St.)

*9:17 to 9:44 ride to 18th Street and North Meridian Street platform.

*9:59 to 10:30 return trip to 66th Street and North College and on to 11:00 AM Worship at FCC.

We can talk, sing, pray witnessing to our just peace, green values and celebrating a leap forward in our cities public transit.

Wear FCC tee shirts, buttons, bring signs, banners.

And it's free!

Sunday Worship Service - 11:00 a.m.

Rev. Dr. Sarah Lund will share "A Living Room Conversation with Rev. Dr. Chris Davies."
Scriptures: Luke 16:19-31

What's Happening at FC

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

TONIGHT! Choir Rehearsals

The choir is back! Rehearsals are on Thursday nights from 7:00 to 8:30 PM. 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!

Curious about what being a W.I.S.E. church might mean for FCC?

Come to the Adult Education hours on Sundays **October 6th and 13th** from 9:45 to 10:45 a.m. in the Adult Library on 2nd floor. The team will discuss our newly created draft covenant, our commitment to mental health and potential plans. On Oct 3rd we will discuss W- welcoming and I-inclusive and on Oct 13th we will discuss S-supportive and E-engaging. We seek your input about our current work and our future, if we become a W.I.S.E. church. Hope to see you there!

PCRC Meeting, Sunday October 6, 12:15pm

Pastor Carol's Pastoral Congregational Relations Committee (PCRC) meets in closed sessions quarterly, including Sunday, October 6 after church. Currently Pastor Carol's focus is on pulpit supply, pastoral care visits, Adult Education and Worship Leader coordination. Bob Cook, Janet Selby, Clark Collier, and susanna-judith rae are on her PCRC Committee. If you have something you want them to discuss at their meeting, please let one of them know.

CROP (Communities Responding to Overcome Poverty) Walk, Sunday October 6th -

Let's continue to HELP END HUNGER ONE STEP AT A TIME by being a walker, sponsoring a walker, donating through church at www.crophunger/walk.org/Indianapolisin/FCindy or by check payable to CWS/CROP. Additional information at the CROP WALK table in the narthex or see Sally Coombs, sallysews73@gmail.com or call 317-446-2853.

FCC Spiritual Explorers Labyrinth Walk, Sunday, October 13, 1:00 p.m.

FCC's third 2019 labyrinth-walking experience is at **1 PM** on **October 13** at St. Luke's United Methodist Church, 100 W 86th St, Indianapolis, IN 46260. The labyrinth is near Luke's Lodge, in St. Luke's NE corner of their back parking lot. Walk around the back of Luke's Lodge, down the steps and north into the neighborhood behind the church property. According to St. Luke's Spiritual Director, Betty Brandt, you can't miss it! (In case of rain, you might want to take an umbrella.) **After** we have all walked the labyrinth, we can go inside St. Luke's door #7, far North, turn left down hallway, 3rd door on the left, room 103-104, where we can discuss our experience as we sit on chairs and where we can bring in food and drinks if we want.

Chautauqua

The Chautauqua Institution in NY is about a 6-1/2 hour drive from Indianapolis, or may be reached by a short flight and shuttle service through Pittsburgh or Buffalo. It's a gated, walled community filled with Victorian and early 1900's houses, a village green, a book store, an ice cream stand, hotels, boarding houses, restaurants, and everything you could wish for to indulge yourself in an uplifting weeklong experience that will enrich you religiously, spiritually, intellectually, physically and aesthetically (please select any/all that you desire).

It offers nine weekly programs each summer--check out CHQ.org for each week's themes, speakers, concerts, and so on in 2020..

Thanks to an anonymous donor, FCC is able to cover all expenses for one pilgrim a year--or one couple every other year. If you're interested, please fill out the application [here](#) and [email it](#) or give it to Shannon in the church office. Hurry, though, we'll stop accepting applications on or about October 15th.

FC's Got Talent

Due to several schedule conflicts, FC's Got Talent has been postponed.
Thanks.

Green Team Tip

Don't forget to adjust your thermostat and turn your water heater temperature down when leaving on vacation. (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

While Pastor Sarah is serving the wider church in Toronto at the headquarters of with the United Church of Canada from Thursday, September 26 – Saturday September 28, Pastor Carol and Rev. Dr. Pat Larracey are available for any pastoral care needs.

Pastor Carol can be reached on September 26 at (317) 496-9732 or at casowle@gmail.com.

Rev. Dr. Pat Larracey can be reached on September 27-28 at (317) 625-6801 or plainandfancy1963@att.net

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

THIS WEEK AT FIRST CONGREGATIONAL

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| Thursday, September 26 | 11:45 a.m. | Women's Lunch |
| Thursday, September 26 | 7:00 p.m. | Choir Rehearsal |
| Sunday, September 29 | 9:00 a.m. | Sunday Adult Class on the Red Line |
| Sunday, September 29 | 11:00 a.m. | Worship w/ Rev. Chris Davies |
| Sunday, September 29 | 12:00 p.m. | Coffee Chat w/ Rev. Chris Davies |
| Sunday, September 29 | 3:00 p.m. | Ecclesiastical Council w/ Shannon Abbott @ St. Peter's UCC – Carmel, IN |
| Wednesday, October 2 | 11:00 a.m. | Witness & Welcome |
| Wednesday, October 2 | 7:00 p.m. | Trustees |
| Thursday, October 3 | 1:00 p.m. | Men's Lunch |
| Thursday, October 3 | 6:00 p.m. | In Harmony |
| Thursday, October 3 | 7:00 p.m. | Choir Rehearsal |
| Sunday, October 6 | 9:45 a.m. | Sunday Adult Class |
| Sunday, October 6 | 11:00 a.m. | Worship |
| Sunday, October 6 | 1:00 p.m. | Crop Walk |