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# FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Epistle for the Week of October 3, 2019

**Dear First Congregational,**

This Sunday, October 6, we will celebrate World Communion Sunday through song, prayer, and reflection about our family of God in the Bahamas. The recovery efforts continue and relief workers are focused on rebuilding and healing. This will be a long journey. We want to extend to our neighbors in the Bahamas our love and good wishes for their renewal.

During worship we will get a taste of the Bahamas through our special communion bread inspired by the Islands, through the sound of Island music, and we will take time to write “thinking of you” note cards to the people. Our United Church of Christ partner congregations in Florida have strong ties to churches in the Bahamas, and they will pass along our cards of encouragement and care.

It’s easy to become overwhelmed and discouraged in the face of such tragedy, loss, and heartbreak. Our words of kindness, mercy and compassion will remind our neighbors that

they are not forgotten.

Thank you for being a congregation that cares for God's world. We truly are one family.

Blessings,  
Pastor Sarah

## **Worship**

### **Adult Class - 9:45 a.m.**

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!

### **Sunday Worship Service - 11:00 a.m. - World Communion Sunday**

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Rev. Dr. Sarah Lund will preach on "Caring for the Bahamas."

Scripture: 1 John 3:16-18



### What's Happening at FC

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

#### **TONIGHT! In Harmony: a community singing group, Thursday Sept 19, 6:30-7:30pm (Sanctuary)**

"In Harmony" is a non-auditioned, non-performing, intergenerational singing group for ALL voices. It will meet twice a month on Thursdays, from 6:30-7:30 pm, in the Mayflower Room. The dates are 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. For general questions, contact Wendy Baldwin or Bob Cook.

#### **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](mailto:juliehouston@comcast.net). We would love to have you join us!

#### **CROP WALK is THIS Sunday October 6th!**

Registration starts at 1:00 PM on the grounds of the InnerChurch Center at 1100 W. 42nd St. and Michigan Rd. The WALK starts at 2:00. We will be joining other churches to help stop hunger ONE STEP AT A TIME. You can still donate at [www.crophunger/walk.org/IndianapolisIN/](http://www.crophunger/walk.org/IndianapolisIN/) / FCindy or make a check payable to CWS/CROP to put in the offering plate. Thank you. - Sally Coombs

#### **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**

Look over your cleaning products. Are they eco-friendly? (If you want to share a green habit, please send it to [hoot.gibson.tds@gmail.com](mailto:hoot.gibson.tds@gmail.com).)



### **Food Donations for the Northside Pantry**

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

### **October Mission of the Month: Neighbors In Need**

Our Neighbors in Need offering for October gives us as members of UCC the opportunity to have a greater outreach. As a new member of your outreach and services board that gives me joy. One third of UCC collection for NIN in October goes toward its work with our Native American sisters and brothers through its support of the Council of Native American Ministries (CAIM). Historically Founders of UCC worked with many different tribes and today there are 20 UCC congregations on reservations. We are not only connected through our baptism to the people in these communities but through a shared belief in the values we hold in communion as UCC members. These churches and their pastors are supported by CAIM, as are more than 1000 individuals from dozens of other tribes. Two thirds of the Collection in October goes to the support the Justice and Witness ministries of the church, not just here but throughout our nation. Working with a wide variety of justice issues, grants are available to assist local churches on their quest for justice in their given communities. These grants are given to help with concerns regarding things like the federal budget, voting rights, immigration, health care, hate crimes, civil liberties and environmental concerns. This year preference will be given for the support of our immigrant neighbors and communities. Please give generously as the need is great. Thank You. (source: [UCC.ORG](http://UCC.ORG))

**Pantry Items of the Month**

During October we are collecting the following items: pudding and Jello mix, rice and beans, canned soup, paper towels.

**Pastoral Care**

Pastor Sarah may be reached at (386) 478-9012 or at [pastorsarah@fcindy.org](mailto:pastorsarah@fcindy.org). While Pastor Sarah is on vacation from October 11-13, Pastor Carol can be reached at (317) 496-9732 or at [casowle@gmail.com](mailto:casowle@gmail.com).

THIS WEEK AT FIRST CONGREGATIONAL		
Thursday, October 3	1:00 p.m.	Men’s Lunch
Thursday, October 3	6:30 p.m.	In Harmony
Thursday, October 3	7:00 p.m.	Choir Rehearsal
Sunday, October 6	9:45 a.m.	Sunday Adult Class w/ WISE Mental Health Team
Sunday, October 6	11:00 a.m.	Worship – World Communion Sunday
Sunday, October 6	12:15 p.m.	Worship & Faith
Sunday, October 6	1:00 p.m.	CROP Walk
Tuesday, October 8	1:00 p.m.	Worship Design
Wednesday, October 9	5:00 p.m.	Mental Health Team

<b>Wednesday, October 9</b>	<b>7:00 p.m.</b>	<b>Church Council</b>
<b>Thursday, October 10</b>	<b>7:00 p.m.</b>	<b>Choir Rehearsal</b>
<b>Sunday, October 13</b>	<b>9:45 a.m.</b>	<b>Sunday Adult Class w/ WISE MH Team</b>
<b>Sunday, October 13</b>	<b>11:00 a.m.</b>	<b>Worship w/ Pastor Carol preaching</b>
<b>Sunday, October 13</b>	<b>1:00 p.m.</b>	<b>Labyrinth Walk @ St. Luke's UMC</b>