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# FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Epistle for the Week of October 10, 2019

**Dear First Congregational,**

This fall First Congregational is blessed to be in partnership with two student interns: Cassidy Hall, our Student Pastor and Grace Langford, our Just Peace Intern. Cassidy is a second year Master of Divinity Student at Christian Theological Seminary and will be serving with us until May 2020. Her areas of focus are adult education, social media, and spirituality. Cassidy is on a journey to explore ordination in the United Church of Christ. Next spring she will begin the formal process to become a Member in Discernment. Please pray that God will walk beside her on this journey of faith, growth, and discovery.

Grace is in her senior year at Butler University and will be with us through the first week of December, and the weeks are going by quickly. Her area of focus is in supporting our efforts to live into our Just Peace covenant. She will provide us insights based on the surveys we collected over the summer from Boards and Committees. She will also engage in “informational interviews” with members of the Just Peace team and others who are interested in giving her feedback and sharing ideas. Please be in touch with Grace if you’d

like to participate in this process by emailing her at [justpeaceintern@fcindy.org](mailto:justpeaceintern@fcindy.org). Grace will present her findings at a special buzz session on December 1, including her reflections, suggestions and ideas for how we might best move forward in our efforts to be a Just Peace Church. She will also be leading some of our adult education classes covering topics such as Bread for the World and sharing about her experience attending an Interfaith Conference at Princeton Seminary about the challenges of drone warfare in our world today. Please pray for Grace as she finishes up her undergraduate career and begins to discern her vocational calling upon graduation.

We are fortunate to be a “teaching congregation” that encourages people along their paths of learning. Thank you for your faithful support of Cassidy and Grace. May God bless us all with a spirit of discovery, growth, and joy for the journey.

Blessings,  
Pastor Sarah

## **Worship**

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

Curious about what being a W.I.S.E. church might mean for First Congregational? Come to the Adult Education hour on Sunday October 13th from 9:45 to 10:45 a.m. in the Adult Library on 2nd floor where we will discuss what it means to be S - Supportive and E - Engaging. The team will discuss our newly created draft covenant, our commitment to mental health and potential plans as we seek your input about our current work and our future, if we become a W.I.S.E. church.

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

Pastor Carol Sowle will preach on "Though You Maybe Have No Money."  
Scriptures: Luke 17:11-19

## **What's Happening at FC**

(See [October 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](mailto:juliehouston@comcast.net). We would love to have you join us!

**THIS SUNDAY! 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. If you plan to be there, would you please email susanna-judith rae, [sjrae@iu.edu](mailto:sjrae@iu.edu), or Pastor Sarah, [pastorsarah@fcindy.org](mailto:pastorsarah@fcindy.org)

**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.

**Friday Night at the Movies, October 18<sup>th</sup>, 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.

**October Buzz & Luncheon: W.I.S.E. Mental Health - Sunday, October 20<sup>th</sup>**

Join the Mental Health Team for a Luncheon and short Buzz after worship on Sunday October 20th. We will present the W.I.S.E. (Welcoming, Inclusive, Supportive, and Engaged) covenant (see below) the team has been working on and ask for your input. We

will also discuss how becoming a W.I.S.E. congregation might affect our church and its activities. Come join us for food, fellowship and discussion.

### **Green Team Tip**

What responsibility do we have for our children's adequate nutrition? Is not helping them development physically and mentally investing in the earth's future? (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**

Neighbors in Need (NIN) is a special mission offering of the United Church of Christ that supports ministries of justice and compassion throughout the United States. One-third of NIN funds support the Council for American Indian Ministry (CAIM). Two-thirds of this offering is used by the UCC's Justice and Witness Ministries (JWM) to support a variety of justice initiatives. As we continue to hear about this administration's injustices at the southern border our JWM are giving special consideration to projects focusing on assisting our immigrant neighbors and communities. Grants are available to empower local churches to support these justice issues. Please give as generously as you can. Thank You. (source: [www.ucc.org](http://www.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).

## **THIS WEEK AT FIRST CONGREGATIONAL**

<b>Thursday, October 10</b>	<b>7:00 p.m.</b>	Choir Rehearsal
<b>Sunday, October 13</b>	<b>9:45 a.m.</b>	Sunday Adult Class w/ WISE Mental Health Team
<b>Sunday, October 13</b>	<b>11:00 a.m.</b>	Worship w/ Pastor Carol Sowle preaching

<b>Sunday, October 13</b>	<b>1:00 p.m.</b>	Labyrinth Walk @ St. Luke's UMC
<b>Thursday, October 17</b>	<b>1:00 p.m.</b>	Men's Lunch
<b>Thursday, October 17</b>	<b>6:30 p.m.</b>	In Harmony
<b>Thursday, October 17</b>	<b>7:00 p.m.</b>	Choir Rehearsal
<b>Saturday, October 19</b>	<b>10:30 a.m.</b>	Bell Choir Rehearsal
<b>Saturday, October 19</b>	<b>1:00 p.m.</b>	IKC Borderland Trip Planning Meeting
<b>Sunday, October 20</b>	<b>9:45 a.m.</b>	Sunday Adult Class w/ Cassidy Hall
<b>Sunday, October 20</b>	<b>11:00 a.m.</b>	Worship
<b>Sunday, October 20</b>	<b>12:30 p.m.</b>	Buzz & Lunch: W.I.S.E. Mental Health Covenant