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FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Epistle for the Week of November 7, 2019

Dear First Congregational,

Our church continues to welcome first time guests every Sunday who find us, they report, by searching the internet for a progressive Christian church in Indianapolis. What does that mean? It means that the unique form of inclusive and open spirituality, faith, and religion that we provide is meeting an important need in our community. This is exciting and is affirmation that our mission and ministry is making a difference in people's lives and in our community. This Sunday we will welcome several new members into the church and I invite you to take time to get to know each one of them personally.

This Sunday we kickoff our three week focus on generosity as we lift up the invitation to support the mission and ministry of our church with your time, talent, and treasure. Then, on Sunday, November 24th we will celebrate with worship, a church family meal and fun festivities. We have much to give thanks for and to celebrate. God is with us! We are doing God's work! Together we are spreading hope and love in the world.

I look forward to being together with you in worship.

Blessings,
Pastor Sarah

Worship

Adult Class - 9:45 a.m.

Our Just Peace Intern, Grace Langford, will be sharing an impactful video about drone warfare and taking time to discuss and react to the impact of drone warfare. We will also learn about ways to draw attention to this issue and be advocates for just peace.

Sunday Worship Service - 11:00 a.m.

Pastor Sarah will preach on "Forgive Often."

Scripture: Job 19:23-27

BUZZ w/ Pitch-In: Faith in Indiana, THIS Sunday, Nov. 10, 12:30 p.m.

We will hear a presentation from Faith In Indiana which acts as a catalyst for marginalized people and faith organizations to address and take action regarding racial and economic equity. How can First Congregational support this statewide initiative? When considering what food to take to Nov 10th Buzz's pitch-in, you might want to take something other than a dessert! susanna-judith rae is providing lots of birthday cake—chocolate sheet cake, white sheet cake, and a layered carrot cake—to celebrate the 80th birthday of her husband Earl Hoppert.



What's Happening at FC

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

Choir Rehearsal TONIGHT!

The FC Choir rehearses on Thursdays 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!

THIS SATURDAY! Games, Pizza, and Fun

Friends, guests, members and all others are invited to a game and pizza night in the parlor beginning at **5:30 on Saturday, Nov. 9**. Come any time and join the fun. We will order pizza and plan to eat around 6:45 pm. Please bring your own beverage. All ages are included. We will have games on hand or bring your favorite.

The Nursery is OPEN!

Starting this Sunday, November 10th we will provide Sunday morning nursery care for preschool and younger from 10:30am—12:30pm. Olivia Beeman, Butler University student, will serve as our Nursery Attendant and will be joined by a church volunteer each Sunday. We will use the playroom at the end of the first floor hallway on the right side. Parents will be asked to fill out a drop off form for each child. If you have any questions or are interested in being a volunteer, please contact Pastor Sarah or Lianna Campos.

Annual Stewardship Campaign – Devoted to Generosity

Our fall annual campaign to identify funding and resources for our 2020 ministries is in progress. Pledge materials have been sent to you, and are also available in the Narthex.

Our stewardship theme, “Devoted to Generosity”, will be a focus during the worship services on **11/10** and **11/17**, culminating in **Generosity Sunday on 11/24**. Pledges can be turned in on any of those Sundays, with a deadline of November 30, to help us with our planning for 2020.



On **Generosity Sunday, 11/24**, everyone is invited to attend a simple luncheon following worship. There will be fun activities and singing, as we give thanksgiving for the generosity of our church family, displayed in so many ways that touch so many people's lives. Following the event, you can walk a labyrinth, set up in the Mayflower Room. Please RSVP to Wendy Baldwin, the church office, or use the signup sheet in the Narthex.

I thank you for all of the generous ways that you give to the church and to the world, as we explore this theme through November!

"We Are Not Alone" Breakfast

Date:

Tuesday, November 12, 2018
9:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.

Goal:

To raise money for and awareness of Circle City Clubhouse

Location:

St. Luke's United Methodist Church
100 W. 86th St.
Indianapolis, IN 46260

Reservations:

Eventbrite: [We Are Not Alone](#)
Email: meetme@centralindianaclubhouse.org

Hoosier Village Alternative Gift Event: Sunday, November 17 from 1:30-4:00 p.m. in the Chapel

Do you struggle to find meaningful Christmas gifts for your family and friends? Do you dread receiving more "stuff" for Christmas? This event is an alternative to the commercialization of Christmas. You and your family members will have the opportunity to make donations in a loved one's name to one or more not-for-profit agencies that provide a variety of needed services in Marion and Boone counties. If you are unable to attend, you may pick up order forms in our narthex for absentee participation. Questions? Contact Sue Chapman, chair of Outreach & Service Board.

Green Team Tip

An idling vehicle uses a cup of gasoline in one minute. Avoid drive-thru's (unless you're in a hybrid vehicle). If the line is long, turn off your engine while you wait, or park your car and order inside the restaurant. (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. Please keep them coming!

November Mission of the Month: Family Promise

This month our Mission of the Month is Family Promise of Greater Indianapolis, the organization that serves families in crisis by providing short term housing while helping them to find permanent housing and providing skills that will help clients keep jobs and manage finances. FCC has been affiliated with Family Promise, formerly known as Interfaith Hospitality Network, for over 25 years. As our congregation's make-up and size have changed in recent years, the Council has approved a recommendation from Outreach & Service for us to discontinue hosting families at our church but to continue as a "supporting congregation." This means providing monetary support, taking part in the clothing drives, providing school clothing for the children in the After Care program through our "Underneath It All" drives, and providing Christmas gifts from the gift cards on our "Giving Tree." Our monetary support helps with maintaining the day center and services for clients, including providing bus passes and gas cards. Since we are no longer hosting, our monetary support is even more important now. Please give generously to support the important service Family Promise provides to homeless families in our city.

Pantry Items of the Month

During November we are collecting the following items: fruit cocktail, spaghetti sauce, quick oats, and tooth paste.

Pastoral Care

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

THIS WEEK AT FIRST CONGREGATIONAL

Thursday, November 7	6:30 p.m.	In Harmony
Thursday, November 7	7:00 p.m.	Choir Rehearsal
Saturday, November 9	5:30 p.m.	Game Night
Sunday, November 10	9:45 a.m.	Sunday Adult Class w/ Grace

		Langford
Sunday, November 10	11:00 a.m.	Worship
Sunday, November 10	12:30 p.m.	Buzz Pitch-In: Faith in Indiana
Tuesday, November 12	11:00 a.m.	Worship Design Team
Wednesday, November 13	11:00 a.m.	Music Support Team
Wednesday, November 13	5:00 p.m.	Mental Health Team
Wednesday, November 13	7:00 p.m.	Church Council
Thursday, November 14	1:00 p.m.	Men's Lunch
Thursday, November 14	7:00 p.m.	Choir Rehearsal
Sunday, November 17	9:45 a.m.	Sunday Adult Class w/ Rich Gibson
Sunday, November 17	11:00 a.m.	Worship
Sunday, November 17	12:45 p.m.	PCRC w/ Pastor Sarah