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FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Epistle for the Week of November 14, 2019

Dear First Congregational,

One of the greatest gifts of being part of a church family is that we get to be part of something greater than ourselves. In a world that isolates us and divides us, the church is a place for belonging and unity. I love First Congregational. I love being your pastor. I love that our church practices the art of loving as Jesus loves.

As we think about our pledges to support the mission and ministry for 2020, I give thanks for the ways our church is “devoted to generosity.” Thank you for your support and for your commitment to our bright future. I am excited about our mission and ministry for 2020. God knows that we all need a place to heal, a place to belong and a place to love in this world...I’m so glad we are creating this kind of place together at First Congregational!

Blessings,
Pastor Sarah

Worship

Adult Class - 9:45 a.m.

Rich Gibson will lead us through a discussion of "Plymouth's Pilgrims: Their Church, Their World; and Ours." Copies of the discussion guide will be made available for attendees. Come with an open mind to learn more about our Congregational ancestors.

Sunday Worship Service - 11:00 a.m.

Through word and liturgical dance, Pastor Sarah and Rev. Ayanna L. Garrett will preach on "I Forgive You."

Scripture: Isaiah 11:1-9



Rev. Ayanna L. Garrett is a spirit-filled preacher and teacher of the gospel of Jesus Christ. She is a native of Bellwood, Illinois and grew up at First Christian Church (DOC) of Maywood, IL. She attended the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign where she earned a BS in Communications and a Master of Science in Counseling at Eastern Illinois University. Soon after graduation from EIU, Rev. Garrett was hired at Ball State University where she directed the College and Career Counseling Center at the Indiana Academy for Science, Mathematics, and Humanities for ten years. During her time in Muncie, Rev. Garrett was very active in her church and in the community where she began a mentoring program within the city for young girls. Rev. Garrett received her call to ministry while in Muncie and was licensed to preach soon after.

In 2006, Rev. Garrett moved to Indianapolis to pursue a Master of Divinity at Christian

Theological Seminary (CTS). While in in seminary she taught dance at First Congregational United Church of Christ in Indianapolis for the New Creation Service, a service dedicated to the worship of God through the arts. Rev. Garrett graduated from CTS in 2010 and was ordained into the Christian ministry.

Rev. Garrett has a heart for seeing the sacred expressed and experienced through the arts. She skillfully incorporates the arts into her lectures, workshops, teaching and preaching. She has been dancing since the age of three and has been trained in ballet, modern, African and tap dance. Rev. Garrett is a highly sought-after speaker and has spoken at church related and secular workshops and conferences throughout the United States, Germany and Nicaragua. She currently resides in Bolingbrook, Illinois. She fulfills her call to walk with students as they discern their call to ministry as the Associate Director of Recruitment at Chicago Theological Seminary.



Sneak Peek at Upcoming Special Worship Services - Please Mark Your Calendar!

Blue Christmas - December 20, 6:30pm

Christmas Eve - December 24, 7:00pm

What's Happening at FC

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

Meet Our New Nursery Attendant!

My name is Olivia Beeman and I am from Cleveland, Ohio. I am currently a student at Butler University studying Accounting. I love to travel and try to new things!



Sunday morning Nursery Care for preschool and younger is offered from 10:30am—12:30pm. Our Nursery Attendant, Olivia Beeman, 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.

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!

TOMORROW! Friday Night at the Movies, 11/15, 6:30pm-ish

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

TOMORROW! Deadline for December Colony Submissions

Remember: Tomorrow, Friday, November 15th is the deadline for submitting your December Colony newsletter articles and events! Please send them to shannon@fcindy.org. If you will not be able to meet that deadline, please call the church office (317-257-5397) or email Shannon and let her know the date she can expect your Colony article. (The newsletter will be sent out before Thanksgiving, so timeliness is important.)

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.

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 **11/17**, 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. Small balloons will be added to the sanctuary for each pledge received, to designate our thanks for the generosity of those responding.



On **Generosity Sunday, 11/24**, everyone is invited to attend a simple luncheon following worship (not a pitch in). 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. Please RSVP to Wendy Baldwin, the church office, or use the signup sheet in the Narthex.

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!

Note from the Financial Secretary

We are grateful for the recent pledge of \$300/month to support First Congregational’s mission. Thank you for being “devoted to generosity!” Please contact George if this was your pledge because there was **no name** to identify who this pledge is coming from. The Financial Secretary can be reached at: george.a.meier4.civ@mail.mil or (317) 526-2235

Circle IV Book Group - Tuesday, November 19, 1:30pm

The Book Circle will meet at the home of Sue Chapman on Tuesday, Nov. 19 at 1:30 p.m to finish reading and discussing *Jayber Crow* by Wendell Berry. Please contact Sue Chapman for more information and directions to her home.

Green Team Tip

If you have a computer, have you adopted paperless bills with paperless payments? (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 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 w/ guest liturgical dancer, Rev. Ayanna Garrett
Sunday, November 17	12:30 p.m.	PCRC w/ Pastor Sarah
Sunday, November 17	1:30 p.m.	Worship & Faith Meeting
Tuesday, November 19	1:30 p.m.	Circle IV Book Group
Wednesday, November 20	6:30 p.m.	Calling Circle
Thursday, November 21	6:30 p.m.	In Harmony
Thursday, November 21	7:00 p.m.	Choir Rehearsal
Sunday, November 24	9:45 a.m.	Sunday Adult Class w/ Grace Langford
Sunday, November 24	11:00 a.m.	Worship
Sunday, November 24	12:00 p.m.	Generosity Lunch & Celebration