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FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Epistle for the Week of November 21, 2019

Dear First Congregational,

First Congregational is devoted to generosity and it shows. There is a deep love that flows through this congregation and this love is what makes our church a generous community of faith. We share core values that shape our identity as people who seek to follow Jesus and love like Jesus...loving all of Creation! We show our devotion to this generosity through the dedicated work of our members who faithfully serve our church. If you are reading this...there's a good chance that YOU are devoted to generosity, too. Every day I count my blessings of being here with you at First Congregational.

I look forward to celebrating this Sunday in worship as we lift up our commitments and pledges to support our mission and ministry. I hope you can join us for the festive meal and activities following worship. While we give thanks to God for the blessings of this life, we also

celebrate this calling we have to be devoted to generosity. To be shaped by generosity is a good thing. I believe it pleases God when we give from the heart.

Through our generosity, we can help make the world a better place.

Blessings,
Pastor Sarah

Worship

Adult Class - 9:45 a.m.

Just Peace Intern, Grace Langford will lead us as we take a look at the 2019 Hunger Report from Bread for the World. The report this year is called "Back to the Basics" and focuses on five key aspects: nutrition, gender, fragility, climate, and livelihoods. We will discuss each of these key aspects in the context of the world and local community.

Sunday Worship Service : Generosity Sunday - 11:00 a.m.

Pastor Sarah will preach on "Devoted to Generosity."

Scripture: Colossians 1:11-20



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

Lessons & Carols - December 15, 11:00am

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.)

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!

Annual Stewardship Campaign – Devoted to Generosity

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



Generosity Sunday, 11/24, is the end of our Annual Campaign, where we have the opportunity to bless the pledge gifts we are receiving. Everyone is invited to attend a simple lunch 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.

Thank you for all of the generous ways that you give to the church and to the world! To help with our planning, we ask that all pledges, as well as Time & Talent cards, be turned in by December 1.

Multi-Faith Thanksgiving Service, Nov 26, 7:00 p.m.

You are invited to the 2019 Multi-faith Thanksgiving Service, to be held Tuesday, Nov. 26th at 7:00 pm at the Indianapolis Hebrew Congregation, [6501 N Meridian St, Indianapolis, IN 46260](#)

Hanging of the Greens, Saturday November 30th, 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Please come help decorate the church for the Advent Season. Any questions, email Sally Coombs at sallysews73@gmail.com or call 317-446-2853.

Advent Devotionals

Advent devotionals are available in the narthex. Please take one as we reflect during the

season of waiting.

Just Peace Buzz with Pitch In Lunch, Sunday, December 1, 2019, 12:30 p.m.

The Just Peace Church Team invites you to this important presentation and discussion. We will hear from our Just Peace Intern, Grace Langford, who has been with us for three months studying our just peace process. She has summarized the findings of eleven just peace surveys, interviewed current and past team members and others involved in our just peace efforts and observed how we are doing in our first year as an official Just Peace Church. Join us for this time of discernment and receiving parting gifts from our Just Peace intern, Grace. Also, join us for **Advent wreath making** during and after the Buzz (1 wreath per family).

Check it out! - Church Women United on December 2, 9:30 -11:30 a.m.

CWU (Church Women United) will be meeting at our church on Monday, Dec 2 from 9:30 - 11:30 a.m.. At the meeting on December 2, the focus is on Human Rights - presenting the annual Humanitarian award, and there will be a presentation from Project Transformation - a United Methodist literacy-based summer program for disadvantaged youths.

All are welcome to attend - there will be light refreshments and a short service (with participation from our Carol Sowle), and we will be collecting articles and donations for the Julian Center – (suggested items include: towels, washcloths, adult blankets, fitted twin sheets, deodorant, lotion, bars of soap, baby care items and umbrellas).

We have been affiliated with this organization since the Indiana chapter was started over 70 years ago. This ecumenical group has representatives from a dozen different denominations including Roman Catholic, Episcopal, Baptist, Methodist, AME (African Methodist Episcopal) and over 100 churches. It is a “racial, culturally, and theologically inclusive Christian women's movement, celebrating unity in diversity and working for a world of peace and justice ... impassioned by the Holy Spirit to act on behalf of women and children throughout the world”. I feel privileged to belong to an organization whose early history includes fighting to desegregate the hotels in Indy, before laws forced the issue, and we have been actively involved in social justice ever since.

If you have any interest in or questions about this organization - please contact Karen Walker or Nancy Dickinson.

The Green Team wants YOU!

The Green Team could use more members! Fresh off our success in getting solar panels installed, we have fresh ideas for 2020--but could use some help dragging them across the finish line. If you have any interest in joining up to help, please contact any of us, particularly Rich Gibson, Nancy Dickinson, Bill Gillette, Ann Leatherman or Katie Booth

Green Team Tip

When using the oven for pie baking, turkey baking and other holiday use, leave the oven door

open for a few minutes and let the warmth help heat the house. (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.

Holiday Pastoral Care: While Pastor Sarah is visiting family for the Thanksgiving holiday from Nov 27-30, Rev. Worth Hartman may be reached at (317) 417-0806 or at whartman@westminstervillage.com.

THIS WEEK AT FIRST CONGREGATIONAL

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 – Generosity Sunday
Sunday, November 24	12:30 p.m.	Generosity Celebration
Thursday, November 28-29	-----	Church Office Closed
Sunday, December 1	9:45 a.m.	Sunday Adult Class
Sunday, December 1	11:00 a.m.	Worship: First Sunday of Advent
Sunday, December 1	12:30 p.m.	Just Peace Buzz Pitch-In & Advent Wreath Making