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FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Epistle for the Week of January 9, 2020

Dear First Congregational,

One of the ways new people find out about our church is in their search to find a truly Open and Affirming congregation. We've been living into this Open and Affirming covenant as a church for over 25 years now and this Sunday our worship will celebrate and reflect upon on the multiple ways we seek to be Open and Affirming.

It's a great Sunday to bring a friend, neighbor, co-worker or family member with you to church! Our music, prayers, and message will highlight our commitment to a radical belonging for all God's people. Then, after church stay for our Buzz about inclusivity.

We cannot forget or take for granted just how important it is for a Christian community to boldly and publically proclaim our Open and Affirming commitments. The world needs, and Indianapolis needs, our witness and our extravagant love.

Blessings,

Pastor Sarah

Worship

Adult Class - 9:45 a.m.

In January, Adult Ed will study "Embracing the Prophets in Contemporary Culture; Walter Brueggemann on Confronting Today's 'Pharaohs'."

Jan 12 - "The Prophets as Uncredentialed Purveyors of Covenant"

Sunday Worship Service, 11:00 a.m.

Pastor Sarah will be preaching on "Rainbow Power."

Scripture: Proverbs 31:8-9



What's Happening at FC

(See January 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!

Out of the Office

Next week, I will be out of the office, serving the wider church at the southern border. While I am away, I will have access to email, and will do my best to check my inbox daily. Cheryl Dillenback has graciously offered to check the mailbox and voicemail messages while I

am away. Thank you, Cheryl!
- Shannon Abbott, Office Administrator

Thank You for Your Generosity!

Thank you for the abundant donations for the hygiene kits. They are on their way to the southern border right now! Thanks to your generous donations, there are some extra hand towels and soap which will be donated to Family Promise, and socks which will be donated to Horizon House. Thank you!

Buzz & Pitch In Lunch: Inclusive Language - Sunday Jan 12

Worship and Faith is hosting a Buzz on the use of Inclusive Language in our worship services. We will have a panel discussion with members of our congregation on **January 12 after worship**. You are invited to bring a dish and voice your experience of the recent changes we have made in our use of scripture, doxology, and prayer.

Celebration of Four-Way Covenant, Sunday, January 19th

During worship, we will celebrate our covenant with the Rev. Worth Hartman, his employer - Westminster Village, the SouthEast Association, and our congregation.

Annual Meeting, January 26th (after worship)

It's amazing! It's wonderful! It's the highlight of the church (governance) year! It's the Annual Meeting, after services on Sunday, January 26! Come one, come all: Members, visitors with a hankering to see how a congregation does business, anyone, everyone! Bring a dish for the pitch-in lunch, and don't worry about what to do with the kids. We'll have the nursery workers staying through the meeting so you have options galore!

Annual Reports

Thank you all for submitting your reports! - Shannon Abbott, Office Administrator

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

Turn off the stove or grill up to 10 minutes before you are done cooking your food to use the residual heat.



Food Donations for the Northside Pantry

Donations have been generous and are appreciated. Please keep them coming! We are grateful to the Meridian Hills Nursery School and Kindergarten who has joined us in donating and delivering food to the pantry.

January Mission of the Month: Indiana Youth Group

In 1987 the Indiana Youth Group was founded by two volunteers in order to provide a safe space for social gatherings for self identified LGBTQ+ high schoolers. IYG has grown from a group of about a dozen youth to a social service agency providing resources for almost 1,000 youth and their families. Our donations to IYG help assure that the mission of IYG will expand throughout Indiana and act as a witness to FCC's ONA commitments.

Pantry Items of the Month

During the month of January, we are collecting: noodles, muffin mix, cereal, shampoo

Pastoral Care

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

THIS WEEK AT FIRST CONGREGATIONAL

Thursday, January 9	1:00 p.m.	Men's Lunch
Thursday, January 9	7:00 p.m.	Choir Rehearsal
Sunday, January 12	12:30 p.m.	Buzz w/ pitch-in: Inclusivity
Thursday, January 16	7:00 p.m.	Choir Rehearsal
Thursday, January 16	7:00 p.m.	Indianapolis Green Congregations
Sunday, January 19	9:45 a.m.	Sunday Adult Class
Sunday, January 19	11:00 a.m.	Worship
Sunday, January 19	12:30 p.m.	Worship & Faith
Sunday, January 19	6:00 p.m.	Christian Unity Worship @ Zion Evangelical UCC (N NJ St)