

 [FirstCongregationalUCCIndy](#)

 [Forward](#)



FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Epistle for the Week of January 23, 2020

Dear First Congregational,

Together we will join our hearts and minds this Sunday for worship and fellowship, followed by our important Annual Meeting. Please join us for this time where we truly live into our values as a congregation, affirming our calling as each one of us work together to fulfill the church's mission. It is a joy and honor to serve with you as your pastor.

I am excited about how God will lead our church in 2020. Special thanks to all who have served faithfully in 2019. I want to thank especially our outgoing Moderator, Rich Gibson, for his faithfulness and hard work as he guided our church through many areas of growth and change in 2019.

May God bless our gathering this Sunday as we seek to follow in the way of Christ.

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 26 - "The Shrill Rhetoric that Breaks Denial"

Sunday Worship Service, 11:00 a.m.

Pastor Sarah will be preaching on "The WISE Jesus."

Scripture: Matthew 4:12:23

Annual Meeting, THIS SUNDAY (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!



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 julienhouston@comcast.net. We would love to have you join us!

TOMORROW! UCC Asylum Accompaniment Webinar - Jan 24th 2020, 1PM

Please join the United Church of Christ on Friday January 24th at 1PM ET for a webinar on How to Do Asylum Seeker Accompaniment. This is a collaboration between Justice and Local Church and Wider Church Ministries. Over the past year and a half, the number of asylum seekers arriving to the U.S. has increased significantly, and faith and community groups across the country - including numerous United Church of Christ churches - have taken the faith-full step to offer care and welcome to those seeking protection. This webinar will cover the basics of how to do asylum accompaniment, while providing a space to share expertise and experience from congregations already deeply engaged in this work. Additionally, this webinar will be accompanied by the release of the UCC Asylum Accompaniment Toolkit to help walk churches through a new or on-going ministry of accompanying.

Led by: Amanda Sheldon, Program Associate, UCC Refugee and Asylum Ministries & UCC Disaster Ministries

Rev. Noel Andersen from the UCC National Collaborative on Immigration

Special guest speakers from congregational around the country

Sign up here! <https://forms.gle/RUXh7MhMEAK4erx76>

Urgent Just Peace Concern: Tenants' Rights Bill Needs a Hearing

H.B. 1103 (iga.in.gov/legislative/2020/bills/house/1103) is currently in the Indiana House Judiciary Committee. It would make much needed changes in tenants' rights and help lower Indiana's high eviction rate. According to the latest data Indianapolis has the 4th highest rate of evictions of major metropolitan areas in the entire U.S.!

Please contact Rep. Jerry Tor, chair of that committee, **before Jan. 27** to urge him to give that bill a hearing so it can be considered by the full House. His phone is 317-234-9499. Email is H39@iga.in.gov. This is a "Just Peace" activity we can easily take part in.

Youth Climate Day - Tuesday, Jan 28, 12:00-3:00 p.m.

Pastor Sarah, the Green Team and Board of Witness and Welcome invite you to join together at the State Capitol on Tuesday, January 28 from 12 - 3 PM to support the Youth Climate Day.

Bring a sack lunch and your own water bottle. There will be key speakers addresses the gathering and you may talk with your legislators if you wish Please click the following website to learn more and to register. We will provide FCC signs or you may bring your own to support climate legislation.

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/youth-climate-action-day-the-indiana-statehouse-tickets->

Just Peace Tip

Dharma in Hell: Buddhist Mindfulness in Prisons

Tuesday, January 28, 2020 - 7:00 pm in the Shelton Auditorium on South Campus, Butler University

From the office to the hospital room, the benefits of mindfulness have been scientifically proven. In this session, we learn about various efforts to improve the lives of inmates through the practice of meditation. Fleet Maull will be the keynote speaker, founder of the Prison Mindfulness Institute and author of “Dharma in Hell” and “Radical Responsibility.”

Nicaragua Mission trip information meeting - Sunday, Feb 2 (after worship)

We are looking into FCC's next mission trip to Nicaragua in 2020. We have a relationship with CEPAD, the Council of Protestant Churches in Nicaragua, and support the organization as it strives to improve the situation of people who are victims of earthquakes, hurricanes, and times of crisis, especially in the isolated rural areas of the country. Brigades from FCC go to Nicaragua and help with local community programs and projects that improve the lives of the people who live in the second poorest country in the western hemisphere. If you are interested in participating, come to the information meeting in the library on February 2nd after the service. Contact Rita Hummel for more information Ph: 317-875-8388, email: rithum1970@comcast.net.

Annual Board Retreat - Saturday, Feb 8, 9:00a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

The newly elected Boards will meet in the Mayflower Room on Saturday morning, February 8th, from 9:00am - 12:00pm. New members will get indoctrination and training in Board activities and responsibilities. The Boards will elect their officers; e.g., Chair, Board representative, and secretary/recorder

“Around a table” – Fellowship, Fun, & Food

For the first go around, we had 3 groups of people who have been getting together for 4 months – some for meals, some for desserts, and lots of talking and fellowship! Now it is time to sign up for the next round – to meet monthly March through June. It doesn't matter if you participated or not the first time – sign up for this next round! We will be changing the groups around – the idea is to be in fellowship and get to know different people – so the more the merrier! **If interested, please click [here](#) to complete the sign up sheet and return it to church by February 16.** Presented by Care & Connections board – please contact Karen Walker (317-319-8950 or karen.e.d.walker@gmail.com) or Wendy Baldwin (317-319-0806 or wendy.baldwin@rci.com) for any questions or help with sign up.

Green Team Tip

Going shopping? Be sure to take your reusable shopping bags. Don't have any? They are available cheaply at most grocery stores. Also, we may still have some at church.



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 23	1:00 p.m.	Men's Lunch
Thursday, January 23	7:00 p.m.	Choir Rehearsal
Saturday, January 25	11:30 a.m.	CIBA Meeting
Sunday, January 26	9:45 a.m.	Sunday Adult Class
Sunday, January 26	11:00 a.m.	Worship
Sunday, January 26	12:00 p.m.	Annual Meeting
Tuesday, January 28	7:00 p.m.	Dharma in Hell: Buddhist Mindfulness in Prisons (Butler University, Sheldon

Thursday, January 30	11:45 a.m.	Auditorium)
Thursday, January 30	7:00 p.m.	Women's Lunch
Saturday, February 1	10:30 a.m.	Choir Rehearsal
Sunday, February 2	9:45 a.m.	Bell Choir
Sunday, February 2	11:00 a.m.	Sunday Adult Class
		Worship