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# FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Epistle for the Week of January 30, 2020

**Dear First Congregational,**

I am profoundly grateful to this congregation for your faithful discernment to vote to become a WISE (Welcoming, Inclusive, Supportive, and Engaged) congregation for mental health. Thank you to the members of our Mental Health Team and especially thanks to co-chairs, Sandy Wood and the Rev. Dr. Pat Larracey. As you may know, I personally have been on my own WISE journey for a long time. I was there in 2015 at the United Church of Christ General Synod when our denomination voted to support the WISE movement. I then worked on the UCC Mental Health Network Board of Directors as Vice Chair to develop the steps for congregations to become WISE.

So as you may imagine, on Sunday as I listened to our congregation read aloud our own WISE covenant, my heart was filled with deep awe at how God's Spirit moves. Being part of this journey for so many years, it was quite gratifying to be part of a local church living out this commitment. I am excited about how our WISE journey will unfold.

It truly is humbling and an honor to be part of First Congregational United Church of Christ as we are trailblazers in this WISE movement. God is surely well pleased.

Blessings,  
Pastor Sarah

## Worship

### Adult Class - Feb 2, 9:45 a.m.

This Sunday, we will finish the study on "Embracing the Prophets in Contemporary Culture: Walter Brueggemann on Confronting Today's 'Pharaohs'." This final topic will be on "The Grief of Loss as Divine Judgement."

### Sunday Worship Service, 11:00 a.m.

Pastor Sarah will lead us in an interactive sermon, "Our Savior's Prayer Reflections and Workshop."

Scriptures: Matthew 6:9-13, Luke 11:2-4



## What's Happening at FC

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

### Greetings from your new Moderator!!

I am so very grateful that you have entrusted me with the awesome responsibility of this office for the year of 2020! By the end of this year I hope you will be happy that you did. Excitement frequently accompanies change (hopefully, positive excitement), and that's what I'm feeling as I step into this new role. Pastor Sarah, Vice Moderator Larry Eckel, and

I am planning the upcoming **board retreat on Saturday, February 8, 2020, 9:00-12:00 AM, with breakfast snacks and coffee available at 8:30.** This will be an opportunity for some socializing, visioning, orientation, and organizing, with some fun thrown in for good measure. I hope to see all board members – new and old – present that morning, but anyone not currently serving on a board is invited to attend as well. Ministry teams are essential to the work of the church, so please see this as an opportunity for meeting with boards about plans and needs. And if you're not currently on either a board or a team, come for the breakfast and socializing! You just may hear something that inspires you to serve in a new way.

One more thing: I consider listening with an attentive ear to be a large part of the Moderator's role, so please feel free to contact me about anything church-related, good or bad, positive or negative. I will do my best to hear you, as you are a vital part of this place of belonging, healing, and love.

In faith,

Alice Rutherford

### **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](mailto:juliehouston@comcast.net). We would love to have you join us!

### **Church Office Hours Next Week - Jury Duty**

Our office administrator, Shannon, has been called upon next week to fulfill her civic duty through jury duty. Therefore, she may or may not be in the office next week, depending on whether or not her jury group is selected to appear. She is working hard this week to make sure all publications for next week are completed, and may be able to check office email from home in the event that she is indeed called to be on a jury. Thank you for your understanding.

### **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](mailto:rithum1970@comcast.net).

### Supply Drive for Family Promise

This month, Family Promise is holding a supply drive to collect many items needed for use by families at the Day Center and while in the IHN shelter and After Care programs. Fliers listing needed items are in the narthex and in the link [here](#). Donations will be collected from **Feb. 7 - Feb. 23**. Please put items in the large white laundry hampers in the narthex or use the white trash bags that are in those hampers. Supplies will be delivered to Family Promise from Feb. 24 through Feb. 27. Your generosity will be appreciated by Family Promise and those they serve.

### Border Information & Vigil – Monday, February 10, 6:30 p.m.

Please join us for an educational program about what is happening at the U.S.-Mexico border. Education and witness of stories from the border will be followed by a prayer vigil for Jose Antonio Elena Rodriguez, a young boy killed by U.S. Border Patrol on October 10, 2012 in Nogales, Sonora, Mexico.

**FEBRUARY 10**

**JOSE ANTONIO ELENA RODRIGUEZ  
WAS KILLED BY BORDER PATROL  
ON THE MEXICAN SIDE OF THE BORDER**

**WHAT:** An educational program about what is happening at the U.S. Mexico border followed by a prayer vigil for Jose Antonio Elena Rodriguez a young boy killed by U.S. Border Patrol Oct 10, 2012 in Nogales, Sonora, Mexico.

**WHERE:** First Congregational United Church of Christ,  
7171 North Pennsylvania, Indianapolis, IN 46240.

**WHEN:** Monday February 10, 2020 6:30-8:30 p.m.

**WHO:** For anyone who wants to learn more and help make a change.

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### “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](mailto:karen.e.d.walker@gmail.com)) or Wendy Baldwin (317-319-0806 or [wendy.baldwin@rci.com](mailto:wendy.baldwin@rci.com)) for any questions or help with sign up.

### **Green Team Tip**

Water is becoming scarce, even though our area has plenty. West coast is in a drought. Save clean water by using dry detergent rather than liquid in your laundry.



### **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](mailto:pastorsarah@fcindy.org).

## **THIS WEEK AT FIRST CONGREGATIONAL**

**Thursday, January 30**

**11:45 a.m.**

**Women's Lunch**

**Saturday, February 1**

**10:30 a.m.**

**Bell Choir Rehearsal**

<b>Sunday, February 2</b>	<b>9:45 a.m.</b>	<b>Sunday Adult Class</b>
<b>Sunday, February 2</b>	<b>11:00 a.m.</b>	<b>Worship – New Member</b>
<b>Sunday, February 2</b>	<b>12:00 p.m.</b>	<b>Sunday</b>
<b>Sunday, February 2</b>	<b>12:00 p.m.</b>	<b>Nicaragua Meeting</b>
<b>Wednesday, February 5</b>	<b>1:00 p.m.</b>	<b>Worship &amp; Design Meeting</b>
<b>Thursday, February 6</b>	<b>1:00 p.m.</b>	<b>Men’s Lunch</b>
<b>Thursday, February 6</b>	<b>7:00 p.m.</b>	<b>Men’s Lunch</b>
<b>Saturday, February 8</b>	<b>9:00 a.m.</b>	<b>FC Board Retreat (all are welcome)</b>
<b>Sunday, February 9</b>	<b>9:45 a.m.</b>	<b>Sunday Adult Class</b>
<b>Sunday, February 9</b>	<b>11:00 a.m.</b>	<b>Worship</b>
<b>Sunday, February 9</b>	<b>12:00 p.m.</b>	<b>Student Pastor Support Team</b>