

 [FirstCongregationalUCCIndy](#)

 [Forward](#)



FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Epistle for the Week of February 6, 2020



Dear First Congregational,

Next week I am participating in the Mediation Skills Training Institute for Church Leaders held at Frieden's UCC, and hosted by the Christian Church in Indiana and the Indiana-Kentucky Conference UCC. Every organization, including churches, experience conflict. This training is provided by the staff from The Lombard Mennonite Peace Center (LMPC)

which is a ministry inspired by II Corinthians 5:18 – “**All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to God and gave us the ministry of reconciliation.**” I am thankful for the grant from the IK Conference to provide this training and I am eager to learn more and share with you about peacemaking from a biblical understanding of Christian discipleship. To learn more, check out their website: <https://Impeacecenter.org/>

Blessings,
Pastor Sarah

Worship

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

For Black History Month on Sunday February 9th we'll be taking a look at Black theology and Womanist theology. We'll discuss what these theologies are, why they're important, and some of the key voices within these theological movements. After this, we'll then consider their importance for our lives individually and as a church. Join us to celebrate and learn from these important voices in theology!

Sunday Worship Service, 11:00 a.m.

Pastor Sarah will preach "Share Earthly and Spiritual Resources."

Scriptures: Matthew 5:13-20



What's Happening at FC

(See February 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!

**Board Retreat - Saturday, February 8, 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
(breakfast snacks and coffee available at 8:30 a.m.)**

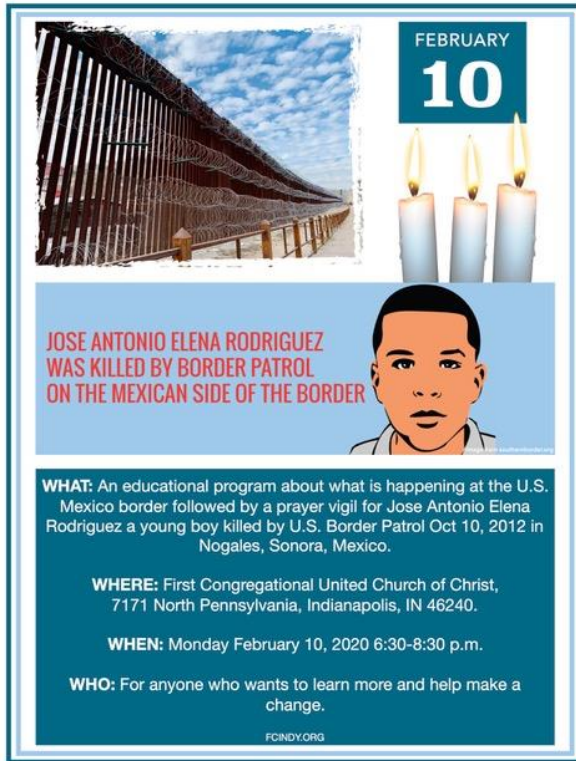
The FC Board Retreat is an opportunity for some socializing, visioning, orientation, and organizing, with some fun thrown in for good measure. We hope to see all board members – new and old – present that morning, but anyone not currently serving on a board is invited to attend as well. Ministry teams 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.

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.



Buzz & Pitch In Lunch: Expanding Our Extravagant Welcome - Sunday, February 16, 12:00 p.m.

At this month's Buzz, we will examine some welcoming stumbling blocks and make a list of welcoming statements that with a little practice will make our welcoming experience easier for our members and our visitors. In other words, everyone will benefit from our BUZZ session.

Bring a dish for lunch to share, enjoy the conversation and expect a few laughs.

“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.

Friday Night at the Movies

Join us on the 3rd Friday of each month – 2/21, 6:30ish: We meet at 6:30ish at Keystone Art Cinema in the Fashion Mall at Keystone, and 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.

Address Directory

We are working on the annual update to our address directory, and plan to have it completed by the end of the month. If you have had a change to your name, address, phone numbers, or email, or if you are not listed in the directory, please contact Shannon at shannon@fcindy.org, and/or make a note of the change(s) on the master copy on the Narthex table, by 2/23. Thanks, Wendy Baldwin.



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.

February Mission of the Month: Peace Learning Center

Now that our church has become a Just Peace Church we have an opportunity to witness to our commitment to peace and support the Peace Learning Center, an internationally recognized community educational institution promoting peace-building and conflict resolution with programs replicated in eight US cities and five countries. Since 1997, the PLC has reached more than 210,000 people locally and internationally. Peace Learning Center educates, inspires and, empowers people to live peacefully. Its vision is to build a community of peace where respect is primary and justice is real. The PLC works directly with schools, community nonprofits, businesses, juvenile correctional facilities, and faith groups to facilitate peace education. The Peace Learning Center believes everyone can be a peacemaker. Programs teach safe and simple ways to manage anger, solve problems, and develop appreciation for differing perspectives.

Consider a generous contribution to our February Mission of the Month, the Peace Learning Center. You can learn more about this inspiring organization at www.peacelearningcenter.org

Pantry Items of the Month

During the month of February, we are collecting: jelly/jam, canned tuna/chicken, pasta, and bar soap.

Pastoral Care

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

THIS WEEK AT FIRST CONGREGATIONAL

Thursday, February 6	1:00 p.m.	Men's Lunch
Thursday, February 6	7:00 p.m.	Choir Rehearsal
Saturday, February 8	9:00 a.m.	FC Board Retreat
Sunday, February 9	9:45 a.m.	Sunday Adult Class
Sunday, February 9	11:00 a.m.	Worship
Sunday, February 9	12:00 p.m.	Student Pastor Support Team
Monday, February 10	6:30 p.m.	Border Information & Vigil
Wednesday, February 12	5:00 p.m.	Mental Health Team
Wednesday, February 12	7:00 p.m.	Church Council
Thursday, February 13	7:00 p.m.	Choir Rehearsal
Saturday, February 15	10:30 a.m.	Bell Choir Rehearsal
Sunday, February 16	9:45 a.m.	Sunday Adult Class
Sunday, February 16	11:00 a.m.	Worship
Sunday, February 16	12:00 p.m.	Buzz & Pitch In Lunch: Expanding Our Extravagant Welcome