

 FirstCongregationalUCCIndy

 Forward



FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

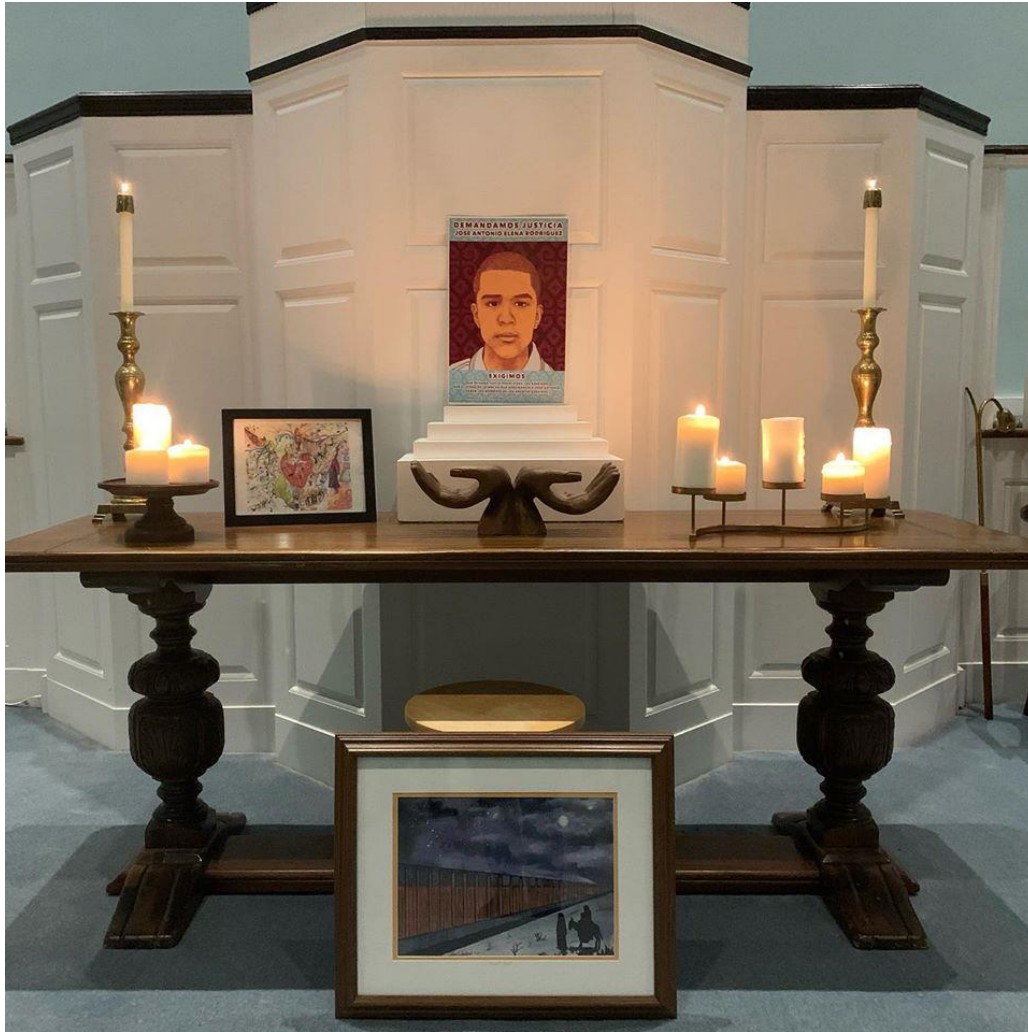
Epistle for the Week of February 13, 2020

Dear First Congregational,

This past Monday, February 10th, several of us gathered to hear about Jose Antonio Elena Rodriguez. We heard from Sandy Wood, Shannon Abbott, and Jose Antonio's grandmother (thanks to Cassidy Hall's documentary) about the injustice of the tragic conditions that lead to children being killed at the border. We heard a powerful poem read by Olivia Bradley about our deep fears of immigrants, the fears that lead to the killing of children. We heard songs of hope offered by Sean Baker and Shannon.

We prayed for justice. We gave thanks for the witness of mercy and compassion at the border, acts of grace in the form of water in the desert and medical care for those in need. Upon the wishes of the family, we will continue to hold vigil until there is justice for Jose Antonio. The next vigil will be [on March 10th at 6:30 p.m.](#) at Broadway United Methodist Church.

Blessings,
Pastor Sarah



Worship

Adult Class - Feb 16, 9:45 a.m.

Marion Harcourt went to the Holy Land in 2001. Seeing Galilee, the Jordan River, Jerusalem made real for her that the Bible is a story that occurred in real places! The topography, the importance of "Water is Life," the distances, the size of Jerusalem, all shaped the drama of the stories that are as real today as they were two millennia ago. She will share about her trip to Galilee and the Jordan River on Feb 16th & 23rd.

Sunday Worship Service, 11:00 a.m.

Pastor Sarah will preach on "Conflict Transformation."

Scripture: Matthew 5:21-26

First Congregational Lenten Immigration Journey

February 26: Ash Wednesday Worship at 6:30pm

March 2 - March 20: Small Groups

April 5 - April 10 - Holy Week: Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday and Good Friday

April 12 - Easter



What's Happening at FC

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

A Message from the Moderator

I want to express my sincere thanks to all who participated in the Board Retreat last Saturday, 2/8/20. It was a rewarding time of celebrating FC's 2019 successes, along with dreaming, visioning, and setting goals for 2020 and beyond. From dreams for a larger congregation and children's/youth ministries to remodels of the sanctuary, parlor, and restrooms; from visions of a new mental health ministry to new ways of acting on our commitments to justice and peace; FC's movement forward into this new decade is set on "full speed ahead." Watch throughout this year as we grow into more of what God is calling us to. Better yet, don't just watch – take part in the action! It's going to be a wonderful year, and as Moderator I'm excited to have a front-row seat!

Alice Rutherford, Moderator

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!

THIS SUNDAY, Feb 16th - Buzz & Pitch In Lunch: Expanding Our Extravagant Welcome - 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.

Lenten Devotionals: For the Beauty of the Earth

Lenten devotionals are available for pick up in the narthex **THIS Sunday, February 16th.**

Lenten Breakfast Series: "God's Open House"

Saturday Mornings at 8:30 am

* **March 7: "Peace in the Home"**

Zion UCC (Troy Avenue)

8916 E Troy Ave, Indianapolis, IN 46239

* **March 14: "Justice in the Home"**

First Congregational UCC

7171 N. Pennsylvania St, Indianapolis, IN 46240

* **March 21: "Renewal in the Home"**

St. John (Cumberland)

11910 E Prospect St, Indianapolis, IN 46239

* **March 28: "Unity in the Home"**

No breakfast location

Please read Matthew 12:25 and reflect on the importance of unity in the home.

* **April 4: "God in the Home" (with Communion)**

Zion Evangelical UCC (Downtown)

603 N New Jersey St, Indianapolis, IN 46202

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.

"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.

Leap Day Game Night, Feb. 29, 5:30 - 8:00 PM

Everyone is invited to bring a friend to our GAME NIGHT at First Congregational. We will provide snacks, chili, and deserts. Please bring your own beverage for the evening. Childcare will be available but please either sign the sheet at the back of the church or email Bob: bobcook359@yahoo.com by Wednesday, February 26 if you need childcare. Join us anytime during the evening. Games begin at 5:30 and we will eat about 6:30.

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 13	7:00 p.m.	Choir Rehearsal
Friday, February 14		Valentine's Day
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
Tuesday, February 18	1:30 p.m.	Book Circle (at Betty Schnur's home)
Wednesday, February 19	6:30 p.m.	Calling Circle
Thursday, February 20	11:00 a.m.	Worship Design Team
Thursday, February 20	1:00 p.m.	Men's Lunch

Thursday, February 20	7:00 p.m.	Choir Rehearsal
Friday, February 21	6:30 p.m.	Movie Night
Saturday, February 22	10:30 a.m.	Bell Choir Rehearsal
Sunday, February 23	9:45 a.m.	Sunday Adult Class
Sunday, February 23	11:00 a.m.	Worship