

 FirstCongregationalUCCIndy

 Forward



FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

E-pistle for the Week of August 1, 2019

Dear First Congregational,

The Universal Christ is Richard Rohr's newest book (<https://universalchrist.cac.org/>). I will be preaching this Sunday and connecting our scripture lesson with Rohr's view of the "Universal Christ." Here at First Congregational, we value pushing the edges of our understanding of theology, and asking the deeper questions of faith. I look forward to exploring with you the ways in which Jesus Christ can be experienced in a universal way. Rohr says, "*Incarnation is the oldest Christian story. Through Christ, God is pouring God's self into all creation. To be Christian, then, is to see Christ in every thing.*"

I love how our congregational tradition values the forward journey of faith. There might not be certainties about where the journey ends. We find joy in the journey itself, on the road, traveling together. Thank you for being on this journey of faith with me and with others at First Congregational. We are not alone on the journey.

Blessings,

Pastor Sarah

Worship

Adult Class - 9:45 a.m.

August 4 - We will continue to read and discuss the book *Anxious to Talk About It; Helping White Christians Talk Faithfully About Racism*.

Sunday Worship Service - 11:00 a.m.

Pastor Sarah will preach on "The Universal Christ."

Scripture: Colossians 3:1-11

What's Happening at FCC

Financial Donations: A Word from Our Financial Secretary

Did you recently make a donation from your Merrill Lynch account? If so, please contact George Meier, our Financial Secretary, at (317) 526-2235 or garyng@comcast.net for proper records. Thank you.

Upcoming Labyrinth Walks



FCC Spiritual Explorers will focus on walking local labyrinths on **four Sundays: August 11, September 8, October 13, and November 24**. On Sunday, August 11, we will meet at St. Peter's UCC (Carmel, IN) at 1:30pm to learn more about the labyrinth and to walk the path of the labyrinth. Please mark your calendars.



August 22, 2019 at 4:30pm
Noblesville First United Methodist Church
2051 Monument St. Noblesville, IN 46060

Opportunity with Senator Young! August 22 - Please register!

The Bread for the World organization is sponsoring a town hall focusing on domestic hunger issues, particularly in regard to children. There will be several speakers

highlighting issues and impacts related to hunger throughout childhood (see brochure), and Senator Young will also speak to the topic. He has been a great sponsor of aid packages for fighting childhood hunger globally. We would like to have at least 10 people from our congregation attend this event to learn and to show support and encouragement for fighting childhood hunger domestically! We will be arranging car pools. Please register so they have a good count! - there is a link below and there is a map at the link. For any questions, please call Karen Walker at 317-319-8950. More will be shared in the weeks leading up to the event.

Help hungry Hoosier kids!

- Indiana ranks 42nd in infant mortality.
- 1 in 6 Hoosier children are food insecure.
- Food insecurity is rampant on college campuses.

Event Purposes:

1. Create urgency to better address child hunger in Indiana, and improve their lives.
2. Deepen engagement of more Hoosiers in solutions to child hunger.

Event Program:

- Dr. Wade Clapp, Chair of Pediatrics, IU School of Medicine, on nutrition & infant mortality
- Andrew Hartley, Superintendent, Plymouth Schools, on good nutrition and academic success
- Dr. Harriet Giles, Auburn Univ Hunger Solutions Institute on hunger on college campuses
- Sen. Todd Young on the reality of a Fair Shot for All Children related to hunger issues
- Dave Miner with a call to action

Sponsored by Bread for the World – Indiana

Register to attend:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/a-fair-shot-for-all-children-tickets-64610049397?ref=eios>

Dear Friends of Exodus Refugee Services

Trump administration officials are considering the unprecedented step of shutting down refugee resettlement in 2020. After already setting the lowest goal in the program's history - only 30,000 refugees in 2019 - some officials have proposed admitting ZERO. Cutting the program further at a time when record numbers of people are fleeing for their lives is unjustifiable. Even as we fight this cruel proposal to decimate the US refugee resettlement program, Exodus continues to serve the many refugees who already call Indianapolis

home. We are committed, we are prepared, and with your help we will keep making Indianapolis a haven of freedom and safety for all. CALL YOUR SENATORS & REPRESENTATIVE TODAY: Call 202-224-3121 to be connected to your 2 Senators and 1 Representative.

Green Team Tip

(If you want to share a green habit, please send it to hoot.gibson.tds@gmail.com.)



Family Promise Clothing Drive, August 2-18

For those of you used to spring and fall clothing drives, this year Family Promise is just doing one in August. So we will not be doing a big push this year. Bring clothing donations to the church in tall white trash bags that are securely tied. If you don't have white kitchen trash bags, we have some at church. Please consider donating to this worthwhile ministry.

Last fall we collected 60 bags of clothing for this clothing drive. This year we hope to equal or surpass that amount. Family Promise usually has 2 clothing drives yearly, 1 in spring and 1 in fall, but this year they are focusing on only 1 drive so we need get as many bags as we can to help them out!

Food Donations for the Northside Pantry

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August Mission of the Month: CEPAD (The Council of Christian Churches in Nicaragua)

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assist CEPAD in continuing these important programs.

Pantry Items of the Month



During August we are collecting the following items: canned peaches and pears, canned beans, ramen noodles and white bathroom tissue.

Pastoral Care

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

THIS WEEK AT FIRST CONGREGATIONAL

Saturday, August 3	1:00 p.m.	Green Team Meeting
Sunday, August 4	9:45 a.m.	Sunday Adult Class
Sunday, August 4	11:00 a.m.	Worship – New Member Sunday
Sunday, August 4	12:30 p.m.	Just Peace Meeting
Wednesday, August 7	7:00 p.m.	Trustees Meeting
Thursday, August 8	1:00 p.m.	Men’s Lunch
Saturday, August 10	10:30 a.m.	Bell Choir Rehearsal
Sunday, August 11	9:45 a.m.	Sunday Adult Class
Sunday, August 11	11:00 a.m.	Worship
Sunday, August 11	12:15 p.m.	Worship & Faith Meeting
Sunday, August 11	1:30 p.m.	Spiritual Explorers Labyrinth Walk @ St. Peter’s UCC

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FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

E-pistle for the Week of August 8, 2019

Dear First Congregational,

On Sunday we enjoyed being church together and celebrated the addition of six new members to First Congregational! In each conversation leading up to membership, I kept thinking, "Wow. We are so fortunate to be receiving these incredible people into membership." Our new members bring a depth of life experiences, faith journeys, questions, and hopes to our congregation. As we continue to grow, I continue to thank each one of you for helping our church be "a place to belong, a place to heal, and a place to love."

We welcomed into membership: Carol and Chris Shank, Jenn Norris, Daniel Grahn, Morgan Dickason, and David Besel. Please join me in building relationships with our newest members and also keep an open spirit to others who come, discovering the best kept secret of progressive Christianity in Indianapolis.

Blessings,
Pastor Sarah

Worship

Adult Class - 9:45 a.m.

August 11 - We will continue to read and discuss the book *Anxious to Talk About It; Helping White Christians Talk Faithfully About Racism*.

Sunday Worship Service - 11:00 a.m.

Pastor Sarah will preach on "Heartfelt Investments."

Scripture: Luke 12:32-34

What's Happening at FCC

Technical Difficulties – It has come to our attention that some emails and electronic newsletters are being returned or are not being received for other reasons. We apologize for this inconvenience and are working with our service providers to resolve this issue.

Upcoming Labyrinth Walk, Sunday, August 11, 1:30 p.m.



THIS SUNDAY, August 11, FCC Spiritual Explorers will meet at St. Peter's UCC (Carmel, IN) at 1:30pm to learn more about the labyrinth and to walk the path of the labyrinth. **If you plan to walk the labyrinth at St. Peter's on Sunday, please email either Pastor Sarah, pastorsarah@fcindy.org, or susanna-judith, sjrae@iu.edu ASAP to let them know.** Thank you!

Indiana Recycling at Robin Run - Sunday, August 11, 7:00 p.m.

All are invited to hear Allyson Michell 'Guru' of Indiana Recycling next Sunday, August 11 at 7 p.m. at Robin Run Community Room.

Friday Night at the Movies, 8/16, 6:30ish



Join us on the third Friday of each month at 6:30ish at Keystone Art Cinema in the Fashion Mall at Keystone. We'll 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



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2051 Monument St. Noblesville, IN 46060

Opportunity with Senator Young! August 22 - Please register!

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**IKC Women's Retreat – Quiet Spaces: A Time for Meditation & Storytelling
(Deadline: August 31st)**



The 2019 IKC Women's Retreat will take place Friday, September 27th - Sunday, September 29th at the Benedict Inn Retreat and Conference Center in Beech Grove, IN.

The retreat will be co-led by Rev. Dr. Monica Ouellette and Rev. Shannon Abbott with additional workshops led by Rev. Dr. Toni Hawkins, Rev. Sarah Frische-Mouri Hannigan, and Paula Neibert. Please plan to join us as we enter into the stories of Mary and Martha, and honor our own stories through creative and unique ways such as *bibliodrama*, *journaling*, *labyrinth walks*, *praying with beads*, *meditation*, *healing oils*, and sharing together in the *breaking of bread*.

The cost to attend the retreat is \$125 for Friday and Saturday only or \$140 for all three days (meals and overnight accommodations included). **The deadline to register is August 31, 2019.**

You can register online below, or download and mail this printable brochure (see below) along with your payment to:

IKC UCC

Attn: Rebecca Braganza

1100 West 42nd Street, Suite 155
Indianapolis, IN 46208)

*IKC Women's Retreat 2019 Brochure
REGISTER ONLINE

*There are also a few copies of the detailed registration brochure in the church office. Pick one up to check out the retreat schedule of events and register!

Green Lunch on Sunday, September 8th

On Sunday September 8th, the Green Team will host a lunch featuring foods with a low carbon footprint. The lunch will include salad, soup, an entree and dessert. During the meal, diners will get tips and advice about cooking and eating sustainably. We want a good count to we prepare the right amount, so please RSVP at your earliest convenience to Rich Gibson, hoot.gibson.tds@gmail.com.

Thank you!

Green Team Tip

Don't forget reusable shopping bags when doing your grocery shopping. Carry them into dry goods stores to avoid plastic there as well. (If you want to share a green habit, please send it to hoot.gibson.tds@gmail.com.)



Family Promise Clothing Drive, August 2-18

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Pastoral Care

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THIS WEEK AT FIRST CONGREGATIONAL

Thursday, August 8	1:00 p.m.	Men's Lunch
Saturday, August 10	10:30 a.m.	Bell Choir Rehearsal
Sunday, August 11	9:45 a.m.	Sunday Adult Class
Sunday, August 11	11:00 a.m.	Worship
Sunday, August 11	12:15 p.m.	Worship & Faith Meeting Spiritual Explorers Labyrinth
Sunday, August 11	1:30 p.m.	Walk @ St. Peter's UCC – Carmel
Tuesday, August 13	10:00 a.m.	Witness & Welcome

Wednesday, August 14	7:00 p.m.	Church Council
Friday, August 16	6:30 p.m.	Friday Night at the Movies
Saturday, August 17	10:30 a.m.	Bell Choir Rehearsal
Sunday, August 18	9:45 a.m.	Sunday Adult Class
Sunday, August 18	11:00 a.m.	Worship with Rev. Elizabeth Price & Rev. Dr. Pat Larracey preaching

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FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

E-pistle for the Week of August 15, 2019

Dear First Congregational,

Poem by Ganga White

*What if our religion was each other,
If our practice was our life; if prayer our words?
What if the temple was the Earth, if forests were our church,
if holy waters - the rivers, lakes, and oceans?
What if meditation was our relationships, if the teacher was life,
if wisdom was self-knowledge,
if Love was the center of our being?*

This poem arrived in my email inbox as a gift. I share it with you and if you are so moved, I invite you to share it with another. Let us spread words of love today.

Blessings,

Pastor Sarah

Worship

Adult Class - 9:45 a.m.

August 18 - We will continue to read and discuss the book *Anxious to Talk About It; Helping White Christians Talk Faithfully About Racism*.

Sunday Worship Service - 11:00 a.m.

Rev. Elizabeth Price & Rev. Dr. Patrick Larracy will preach on "Baptism By Fire."

Scripture: Luke 12:49-56

On Sunday, Pastor Sarah will be serving the wider church as a guest preacher at Community Congregational UCC in Amherst, OH, to bless their newly renovated Accessible-to-All sanctuary and present them with an award from the UCC Disabilities Ministries Board. She will also lead an educational workshop about disabilities and mental health justice. Thank you for supporting this ministry with your prayers.

A note from your music designer

In 1976, First Congregational Church installed our Schlicker Pipe Organ. Worship music played on pipe organ has become a hallmark of the sound of First Congregational Church, yet that tradition is only 43 years young! After spending a year in the role of music designer & organist, I've learned a lot about the history of this particular Schlicker organ and have been surprised to learn that it was built for much diversity. The preceding organists have stayed close to home in the realm of classical organ pieces, but at the instrument's age of 43, I am nurturing its mid-life crisis in the presence of what the new millennium's needs for worship have become. Believe it or not, this beautiful instrument can still stand the test of time in 2019. My role as music designer allows me to draw from my skills as an orchestrator and finally dust off the stops that have been neglected. This Sunday I plan to feature Brazilian Pipe Organ Jazz! There's a musical journey that goes on with a piece of jazz music in the form of improvisation that I think mirrors our journey through the life of faith. I hope you will enjoy in the coming year not only continued use of classical organ music, but also how this organ was built for many ways to praise God through music of all genres. - Sean Baker

Advent Alternative Worship

Are you interested in joining a creative group to plan and implement an Alternative Worship experience for Advent? Do you want to plan a series of small group studies/experiences? Large group sessions that might include yoga, guided meditation, massage, Reiki, Frankincense and Myrrh? Something else? Any and all creative people

welcome! Please see Elizabeth Price after worship this Sunday or email her at eprice235@gmail.com The group will convene on **September 8th** after church.

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Prayers for Pastor Sarah during the Pastor's Protest Fast to end child hunger in Indiana as part of the witness for Bread for the World. Fasting will be **Monday, August 19–Thursday, August 22.**



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Saturday, August 17	10:30 a.m.	Bell Choir Rehearsal
Sunday, August 18	9:45 a.m.	Sunday Adult Class
Sunday, August 17	11:00 a.m.	Worship w/ Rev. Elizabeth Price & Rev. Dr. Pat Larracey preaching
Wednesday, August 21	5:00 p.m.	Mental Health Team Meeting
Thursday, August 21	11:45 a.m.	Women's Lunch
Thursday, August 21	1:00 p.m.	Men's Lunch
Thursday, August 21	4:30 p.m.	Opportunity w/ Senator Young: A Fair Shot for All Children (at Noblesville UMC)
Saturday, August 24	10:30 a.m.	Bell Choir Rehearsal
Sunday, August 25	9:45 a.m.	Sunday Adult Class
Sunday, August 25	11:00 a.m.	Worship
Sunday, August 25	12:30 p.m.	Nicaragua Buzz w/ pitch-in lunch

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FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

E-pistle for the Week of August 22, 2019

Dear First Congregational,

Today I will end my 3.5 day “Pastor’s Protest Fast” by breaking bread with others who joined me in this public witness of advocacy and justice. Later today at 3:30pm we will gather at First United Methodist Church in Noblesville to share our experiences and stories of what it was like to experience a protest fast to raise awareness about child hunger in Indiana.

Following our small group time of fellowship, we will join with hundreds of others for a special event at First United Methodist Church in Noblesville that you all are invited to: “A Fair Shot for All Children” starting at 4:15pm. We will hear powerful testimonies and be inspired to raise our collective voices for justice. I hope to see you there and if you cannot join us, please be praying for our gathering and pray for all who experience food insecurity in Indiana. You can also learn more by going to the Bread for the World website: www.bread.org

My sermon on Sunday will be a reflection of this experience of a "Pastor's Protest Fast" and the spiritual insights gained. Thank you for your faithful prayers and support during this time.

Blessings,
Pastor Sarah

Worship

Adult Class - 9:45 a.m.

August 25 - Paul Terheide and Rita Hummel, along with Global Ministries mission co-worker Jeanette Salley, will share about their participation in the 2019 CEPAD (Protestant Churches of Nicaragua) International Partnership Encounter in Managua, Nicaragua.

Sunday Worship Service - 11:00 a.m.

Rev. Dr. Sarah Lund will preach on "Pastor's Protest Fast."
Scripture: Isaiah 58:9-14

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<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/a-fair-shot-for-all-children-tickets-64610049397?ref=eios>

A special invitation from CTS



Next week 14-week classes begin and [Wednesday, August 28](#), will be our first chapel service of the school year. **President David Mellott** will preach, and the CTS Community is invited to an all-school picnic in the café after the service! Chapel services can be livestreamed [here](#).

IKC Women's Retreat – Quiet Spaces: A Time for Meditation & Storytelling (Deadline: August 31st)



The 2019 IKC Women's Retreat will take place Friday, September 27th - Sunday, September 29th at the Benedict Inn Retreat and Conference Center in Beech Grove, IN. The retreat will be co-led by Rev. Dr. Monica Ouellette and Rev. Shannon Abbott with additional workshops led by Rev. Sarah Frische-Mouri Hannigan and Paula Neibert. Please plan to join us as we enter into the stories of Mary and Martha, and honor our own stories through creative and unique ways such as *bibliodrama*, *journaling*, *labyrinth walks*, *praying with beads*, *meditation*, *healing oils*, and sharing together in the *breaking of bread*.

The cost to attend the retreat is \$125 for Friday and Saturday only or \$140 for all three days (meals and overnight accommodations included). **The deadline to register is August 31, 2019.**

You can register online below, or download and mail this printable brochure (see below) along with your payment to:

IKC UCC
Attn: Rebecca Braganza
1100 West 42nd Street, Suite 155
Indianapolis, IN 46208)

*[IKC Women's Retreat 2019 Brochure](#)
[REGISTER ONLINE](#)

*There are also a few copies of the detailed registration brochure in the church office. Pick one up to check out the retreat schedule of events and register!

Choir Rehearsals

Hello FCUCC folk! Hope everyone is having a good summer. The choir will be starting back up soon. Rehearsals are on Thursday nights from 7:00 to 8:30 PM beginning Sept 5th. Our first

Sunday service is September 8th with the usual pre-service rehearsal time of 10:15 AM. 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!

Green Lunch on Sunday, September 8th



On Sunday September 8th, the Green Team will host a lunch featuring foods with a low carbon footprint. The lunch will include salad, soup, an entree and dessert. During the meal, diners will get tips and advice about cooking and eating sustainably. We want a good count to we prepare the right amount, so please RSVP at your earliest convenience to Rich Gibson, hoot.gibson.tds@gmail.com.

Thank you!

Green Team Tip

Last summer began with no rain, then too much came. This year was the reverse; a very wet spring well into June, then almost a drought. The weather is just going to get more extreme and variable, so be prepared for both! Rain barrels and drip irrigation, rain gardens or sand gardens-- think ahead, have a plan. (If you want to share a green habit, please send it to hoot.gibson.tds@gmail.com.)



Food Donations for the Northside Pantry

Donations have been generous and are appreciated. Please keep them coming!

August Mission of the Month: CEPAD (The Council of Christian Churches in Nicaragua)

CEPAD is an organization of Nicaraguan churches that was founded in 1972 by Dr. Gustavo Parajón in response to a major earthquake. Since then its roll has expanded. In addition to aiding during natural disasters, CEPAD now helps Nicaraguans escape from cycles of poverty and hunger. Access to basic services is often nonexistent, especially in rural areas. Women and the elderly are among the most disadvantaged. CEPAD provides training in sustainable agriculture, economic development for women, community organization and education. CEPAD runs a Christian radio station and attends to immigrants and refugees who are traveling through Nicaragua. Currently,

by training given to pastors, communities can heal from the emotional and physical trauma of this past year.

First Congregational Church members participate in the program for those who wish to send delegations and form partnerships to help local communities. Your donation will assist CEPAD in continuing these important programs.

Pantry Items of the Month



During August we are collecting the following items: canned peaches and pears, canned beans, ramen noodles and white bathroom tissue.

Pastoral Care

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

THIS WEEK AT FIRST CONGREGATIONAL

Thursday, August 22	11:45 a.m.	Women's Lunch
Thursday, August 22	1:00 p.m.	Men's Lunch
Thursday, August 22	4:30 p.m.	Bread for the World Town Hall w/ Sen. Young (Noblesville UMC)
Saturday, August 24	10:30 a.m.	Bell Choir Rehearsal
Sunday, August 25	9:45 a.m.	Sunday Adult Class
Sunday, August 25	11:00 a.m.	Worship
Sunday, August 25	12:30 p.m.	Nicaragua Buzz & Pitch-In
Wednesday, August 28	6:30 p.m.	Calling Circle
Sunday, September 1	9:45 a.m.	Sunday Adult Class
Sunday, September 1	11:00 a.m.	Worship



FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

E-pistle for the Week of August 29, 2019

Dear First Congregational,

This spring I was elected as the President of the Southeast Association of the Indiana Kentucky Conference of the United Church of Christ. This means that I am helping our Association build relationships among the clergy and congregations, honoring the covenant that we enjoy as the Body of Christ in the world. Last week congregations in the Southeast Association worked together to address the urgent needs of a family facing eviction from their Indianapolis home. The [story](#) is a great example of how several churches can work together to help make our community a more just place for everyone. Special thanks to our administrative assistant, Shannon Abbott, for her leadership role in organizing a compassionate response to a family in need. Working together, we can make a positive difference.

Blessings,
Pastor Sarah

Worship

Adult Class - 9:45 a.m.

Sept 1 - We begin "Conclusion: The Anxious Bench" from [Anxious To Talk About It](#)

Sunday Worship Service - 11:00 a.m.

Rev. Dr. Sarah Lund will preach on "Protect the Environment Says the Prophets."

Scripture: Jeremiah 2:4-13

Advent Alternative Worship

Are you interested in joining a creative group to plan and implement an Alternative Worship experience for Advent? Do you want to plan a series of small group studies/experiences?

Large group sessions that might include yoga, guided meditation, massage, Reiki, Frankinsense and Myrrh? Something else? Any and all creative people welcome! Please see Elizabeth Price after Sunday worship or email her at eprice235@gmail.com.

What's Happening at FCC

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In Harmony: a community singing group

Sally McSpadden is starting a new singing group, which will be hosted by First Congregational. It is called "In Harmony", and is a non-auditioned, non-performing, intergenerational singing group for ALL voices. Music is taught aurally, no music reading ability necessary. There will be occasional special guests speaking on a range of topics including mindful movement and breath. It will meet twice a month on Thursdays, from 6-7 pm, in the Mayflower Room. The dates are 9/5, 9/19, 10/3, 10/17, 11/7, and 11/21. A small fee will apply, with the bulk going to support First Congregational.

This group will include people from outside our church, and is also open to anyone in our church family. If you are interested, learn more about it on Facebook - facebook.com/IndyInHarmony, or by email - IndyInHarmony@gmail.com. For general questions, contact Wendy Baldwin or Bob Cook.

Green Lunch on Sunday, September 8th



On Sunday September 8th, the Green Team will host a lunch featuring foods with a low carbon footprint. The lunch will include salad, soup, an entree and dessert. During the meal, diners will get tips and advice about cooking and eating sustainably. We want a good count to we prepare the right amount, so please RSVP at your earliest convenience to Rich Gibson, hoot.gibson.tds@gmail.com.

Thank you!

Spiritual Explorers Labyrinth Walks

FCC's second 2019 labyrinth-walking experience will be on **September 8** at Second Presbyterian Church, 7700 N. Meridian St., **following FCC's Green Team's 12:15**

lunch. Persons who attend the Green Lunch, as well as those who do not, can all meet at **2:00** at Second Pres to walk the outside labyrinth.

Around a Table



Would you like to build connections with other members outside of worship? Those interested will be placed in groups to get together for meals or snacks over a 4 month period. We will then repeat with new sign ups and new groups! If interested, please complete the attached [sign up sheet](#) and return it to church (basket in the narthex) by September 22. A small team will take all the sign up sheets and create groups of 5-7 people, based on preferences but with goal of growing fellowship! Once the groups are selected, each group will be expected to get together at least 4 times if possible – rotating the planning within the group. The group members can decide whether to host meals or snacks or just conversation at their houses, or to meet at restaurants or coffee shops, or anything else. After 4 months, we will have new sign up sheets, and new groups will be created for the next 4 months. Presented by Care & Connections board – please contact Karen Walker (317-319-8950 or Karen.e.d.walker@gmail.com) for any questions or help with sign up.

September Buzz: Witness to the Southern US Border

Sunday, September 22, 12:30 p.m.

Witness can take many forms and for this event, Jill Olinger, member of St. Peter's UCC in Carmel, and President of the Indiana Kentucky Conference, will share stories of a personal journey of more than 10,000 miles and taken over 10 weeks in early 2019 along the US/Mexico border. The stories will be shared and conversation will be guided based on the UCC's 3 Great Loves: Love of Children, Love of Neighbor, and Love of Creation. The stories are based on Jill's experiences and interactions at the border when someone simply shows up and is willing to be present, to see, to hear, and to learn.

Sign Up for "FC's Got Talent"

Do you have a gift or talent that you're willing to share with your FC family at our 'talent show' on Oct 4? These can include various acts of music, song, dialogue (3-5 minutes in length), as well as displays of art, writing, handicrafts, etc. Think now about what you want to share with us, and sign up by 9/22 with your talent on the sheets in the Narthex. Questions? Contact Wendy Baldwin or Bob Cook

Chautauqua

This year, a number of FCers attended one of the weekly programs at Chautauqua, NY, including Dan and Judy Kaufman, Nancy Dickinson, Rich and Jackie Gibson, and Cindy Cox. Cindy's attendance was worth underlining: all her expenses were paid by an anonymous donor!

Now that autumn is almost here, it's time to pick another recipient for this wonderful grant. It could be you! Details on how to apply will be forthcoming soon. Stay tuned!

Green Team Tip

It always takes time for shower water to warm up. In the winter especially, it takes about 2 gallons of water. Catch the water in a bucket! Use it to water plants, wash hands, or flush the toilet. (If you want to share a green habit, please send it to hoot.gibson.tds@gmail.com.)



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THIS WEEK AT FIRST CONGREGATIONAL

Saturday, August 31	12:00 p.m.	Adult Education Meeting @ Pastor Carol's home
Sunday, September 1	9:45 a.m.	Sunday Adult Class
Sunday, September 1	11:00 a.m.	Worship
Wednesday, September 4	10:00 a.m.	Care & Connections
Wednesday, September 4	11:00 a.m.	Witness & Welcome
Wednesday, September 4	5:00 p.m.	Just Peace Team
Wednesday, September 4	7:00 p.m.	Trustees
Thursday, September 5	1:00 p.m.	Men's Lunch
Thursday, September 5	6:00 p.m.	In Harmony
Thursday, September 5	7:00 p.m.	Choir Rehearsal