

Forward



FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

E-pistle for the Week of January 3, 2019



Minister's Message

Pastor Sarah's morning meditation on the beach...



I look forward to seeing you all on Sunday!

Blessings, Pastor Sarah

Worship

Adult Class - 9:45 a.m.

January 6 - In January we will be discussing current events and articles from <u>Christian</u> <u>Century</u> or <u>Sojourners</u>.

Worship Service - 11:00 a.m. - Epiphany Sunday

This Sunday Pastor Sarah will preach on "Dreaming of Justice and Peace." Scripture: Matthew 2:1-12



What's Happening at FCC

UnHanging of the Greens - THIS Sunday!

Plan to remain after worship on Epiphany Sunday to sing the last carols of the season and help to dismantle the Advent/Christmas decorations. Kings' cake with its hidden symbols will be served.

Serving on a Board in 2019



A great way to serve God and our church is to be involved with one of our Boards. These include Trustees, Worship & Faith, Witness & Welcome, Care & Connection, and Outreach & Service. We are also looking for a Vice Moderator as well as a new Financial Secretary, who is responsible for recording and depositing our weekly financial gifts. If you are not currently on a board, and you have interest in serving, please contact Wendy Baldwin, Chair of Care & Connection. We hope to have a full slate to present for approval to the congregation at our Annual Meeting on Jan 27th.

Thank You for Your Generosity.

Thanks to your generosity Outreach & Service was able to deliver 28 gift cards worth of total of \$700 to Family Promise for the After-Care families before Christmas. From the "Mittens and More" collection we delivered 6 large bags of winter clothing: 5 coats, 17 scarves, 27 pairs of gloves, 2 pairs of mittens, 11 pairs of socks, 2 shawls, 1 headband

and 76 hats!

Green Team Tip 🗳

Make a New Year's resolution to find new ways to alleviate climate change. Join Nature Conservancy, Earth Justice, Friends of the Earth, Indiana Earth Charter, Sierra Club, Citizen's Climate Lobby, or Hoosier Interfaith Power and Light. Magazines of these groups may be found in the coat room and in the library.

January Mission of the Month is The Open & Affirming Coalition

The Open and Affirming Coalition of the United Church of Christ has been operating for over 30 years with the responsibility for the church-wide ONA movement. As of January 1, 2019, there are now 1,500 ONA congregations! The ONA Coalition is an independent, non-profit organization and receives no regular funding from OCWM. 75% of its operating budget relies on donations from individuals and contributing ONA churches. Thank you for your support of this Mission of the Month.

Pantry Items of the Month



During January we are collecting the following items: Bread, Soup, Applesauce, and Shampoo.

Pastoral Care

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

THIS WEEK AT FIRST CONGREGATIONAL

Thursday, January 3 Sunday, January 6 Sunday, January 6 Sunday, January 6 7:00 p.m. Choir Rehearsal
9:45 a.m. Adult Sunday Class
11:00 a.m. Worship Service
12:30 p.m. Unhanging of the Greens

Wednesday, January 9 Thursday, January 10 Thursday, January 10 6:30 p.m. 1:00 p.m. 7:00 p.m.

Trustee Meeting Men's Lunch Choir Rehearsal



Forward



FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

E-pistle for the Week of January 10, 2019

Minister's Message

Dear First Congregational,

This may sound strange to you, but I enjoyed last night's Trustees and Church Council meetings. What was so enjoyable? As your pastor, I witnessed first-hand the thoughtful, discerning, wise, generous, caring and visionary leadership of this church ***in action.*** First Congregational is blessed to have dedicated and faithful leaders who help keep our finances in order and on track. This type of attention to detail and good stewardship is important ministry. We are truly blessed by the people who serve our church and I am thankful for our leadership.

I was able to share at the Trustees meeting (as we deliberated the proposed budget to fund our mission and ministries for 2019) that this budget is more than just numbers...it is a moral and missional document. As Jesus says, "Where your treasure is, there your heart will be also" (Matthew 6:21). Budgets are moral because they reflect our deepest values as

a congregation. Budgets are missional because they reflect our relationships with our neighbors. I enjoyed listening, learning, and participating in a robust conversation about what we truly value as a congregation.

I give thanks to God that in our proposed 2019 budget, it is clear that our church highly values:

- ordained and professional staff
- music ministries
- high quality creative and excellent worship
- support of our UCC covenanted partners here in the Indiana-Kentucky Conference and the National Setting
- support of local and global outreach and missions

Soon you will have the 2018 Annual Report and the proposed budget for 2019. I invite you to not only read these documents, but also pray over them. Pray about how God is calling you to support our mission and ministries, increasing our impact and witness to the world. We want to strive to be united in our discernment about where God is calling us as a church for 2019. My prayer is that our hearts will be joined together as one as the Body of Christ.

With hope, Pastor Sarah

Worship

Adult Class - 9:45 a.m.

January 13 - In January we will be discussing current events and articles from <u>Christian</u> <u>Century</u> or <u>Sojourners</u>.

Worship Service - 11:00 a.m.

This Sunday Pastor Sarah will preach on "Being Open to Change." Scripture: Luke 3:15-17, 21-22

Sunday, we are celebrating traditional sacred organ music provided by our guest organist, Charles Manning. Charles is well known throughout the Indianapolis musical community, and has appeared with the Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra, the Indianapolis Chamber Orchestra, the Columbus Symphony, the Missouri Symphony, the Indiana Wind Symphony, the Indianapolis Symphonic Band, the Bloomington Pops Orchestra, the Butler University Symphony Orchestra, and the St. Luke's Orchestra. In the summer of 2007 Mr. Manning was a featured recitalist at the national conventions of the Organ Historical Society and the National Association of Pastoral Musicians. His solo organ CD, "For All the Saints," was released in November of 2007.

What's Happening at FCC



Just Peace Buzz - THIS SUNDAY, January 13, 12:30pm

Please join in for pitch in lunch and discussion about the Just Peace proposed covenant. The Just Peace team provided an excellent write up in the January Colony. We will be voting on this covenant at the annual meeting and this is the key opportunity to learn more about what being a "Just Peace" church is and to discuss the proposal as a group before the annual meeting. Copies of the covenant will be available at church that morning. Looking forward to a robust discussion! Contact: Worth Hartman

Open House & Parent Education Night - January 16th at 6:30 pm

Are you looking for an early education program for your child? Meridian Hills Cooperative Nursery School & Kindergarten cordially invites you to attend an Open House and Parent Education Night on Wednesday, January 16th! Tour the school, meet the teachers, and hear more about the opportunities for learning. Open House begins at 6:30pm, and a Parent Education program begins at 7:30pm. Parent Education Night includes a presentation on values based parenting from a local therapist and is followed by a panel discussion on life after cooperative school.

Annual Meeting: Sunday January 27th at 12:30



Please let your voice be heard - come to the annual meeting to discuss and vote on the direction of our church for 2019 - we will elect our officers and board members, we will discuss and vote on our budget and endowment, and we will determine our calling to be a 'just peace' church. It is the primary meeting of the year that focuses on how ALL our resources are put to use to spread God's love! Join together for a pitch in lunch right after the service before the meeting starts.

Serving on a Board in 2019



A great way to serve God and our church is to be involved with one of our Boards. These include Trustees, Worship & Faith, Witness & Welcome, Care & Connection, and Outreach & Service. We are also looking for a Vice Moderator as well as a new Financial Secretary, who is responsible for recording and depositing our weekly financial gifts. If you are not currently on a board, and you have interest in serving, please contact Wendy Baldwin, Chair of Care & Connection. We hope to have a full slate to present for approval to the congregation at our Annual Meeting on Jan 27th.

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. Can't remember to take them out of your car? When the clerk asks, "paper or plastic?", answer "Neither! Just put them back in the cart, please." Then wheel the cart out to your car and bag them there yourself.

January Mission of the Month is The Open & Affirming Coalition

The Open and Affirming Coalition of the United Church of Christ has been operating for over 30 years with the responsibility for the church-wide ONA movement. As

of January 1, 2019, there are now 1,500 ONA congregations! The ONA Coalition is an independent, non-profit organization and receives no regular funding from OCWM. 75% of its operating budget relies on donations from individuals and contributing ONA churches. Thank you for your support of this Mission of the Month.

Pantry Items of the Month



During January we are collecting the following items: Bread, Soup, Applesauce, and Shampoo.

Pastoral Care

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

THIS WEEK AT FIRST CONGREGATIONAL

Thursday, January 10	7:00 p.m.	Choir Rehearsal
Sunday, January 13	9:45 a.m.	Adult Sunday Class
Sunday, January 13	11:00 a.m.	Worship Service
Sunday, January 13	12:30 p.m.	Buzz - Just Peace
Wednesday, January 16	7:00 p.m.	Witness & Welcome Meeting
Thursday, January 17	7:00 p.m.	Choir Rehearsal



Forward



FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

E-pistle for the Week of January 17, 2019

Message

Dear First Congregational,

As we celebrate the life and legacy of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr in the coming week, let us recall these words...

"Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere. We are caught in an inescapable network of mutuality, tied in a single garment of destiny. Whatever affects one directly, affects all indirectly."

-from 'Letter from Birmingham, Alabama Jail', April 16, 1963

Prayer: Creating the Beloved Community

O God, all people are your Beloved, across races, nationalities, religions, sexual orientations

and all the ways we are distinctive from one another.We are all manifestations of your image.We are bound together in an inescapable network of mutuality and tied to a single garment of destiny.You call us into your unending workof justice, peace and love.Let us know your presence among us now:

Let us delight in our diversity that offers glimpses of the mosaic of your beauty. Strengthen us with your steadfast love and transform our despairing fatigue into hope-filled action.

Under the shadow of your wings in this hour may we find rest and strength, renewal and hope. We ask this, inspired by the example of your disciple, Martin Luther King, Jr., and in Jesus' name. Amen.

(Source: <u>Creating the Beloved Community</u> by Rev. Dr. Cari Jackson of New York City)

Worship

Adult Class - 9:45 a.m.

January 20 - In January we will be discussing current events and articles from <u>Christian</u> <u>Century</u> or <u>Sojourners</u>.

Worship Service - 11:00 a.m.

This Sunday Pastor Sarah will preach on The Radically Inclusive Church. Scripture: 1 Corinthians 12:4-11

What's Happening at FCC

TONIGHT!!! Public Forum on the Opioid Crisis

Please join us to learn more about the opioid crisis in our state, its impact on adults and children touched by the opioid problem, and possible solutions that could move our state forward in addressing this very serious public health concern.

Time/location: St. Luke's United Methodist Church, 100 W. 86th St. (get a map), from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m.

Hosts: Rep. Carey Hamilton (House District 87), Rep. Ed DeLaney (House District 86) and Sen. John Ruckelshaus (Senate District 30).

Speakers: Professor Aila Hoss, J.D., visiting assistant professor at the I.U. Robert H. McKinney School of Law; and Rachel Ziegler, Psy.D., HSPP, licensed clinical psychologist at the Raphael Health Center.

For more information about this forum, please contact House Legislative Assistant <u>Samantha Lozano</u> at <u>317.232.9834</u>.

Annual Meeting: Sunday January 27th at 12:30



Please let your voice be heard - come to the annual meeting to discuss and vote on the direction of our church for 2019 - we will elect our officers and board members, we will discuss and vote on our budget and endowment, and we will determine our calling to be a 'just peace' church. It is the primary meeting of the year that focuses on how ALL our resources are put to use to spread God's love! Join together for a pitch in lunch right after the service before the meeting starts.

Serving on a Board in 2019



A great way to serve God and our church is to be involved with one of our Boards – we still have openings on Care & Connections and Outreach & Service. Also, we continue to search for a Vice Moderator as well as a new Financial Secretary, who is responsible for recording and depositing our weekly financial gifts. If you interest in serving, please contact Wendy Baldwin, Chair of Care & Connection. We hope to have a full slate to present for approval to the congregation at our Annual Meeting on Jan 27th.

Extra Food for Food Pantry



The shutdown is affecting food banks nationwide as government workers without paychecks are resorting to them for food assistance. If this drags on much longer, SNAP recipients will also make greater demands on food pantries. <u>Please bring</u> <u>extra food over the next several weeks to help meet this unexpected need.</u> **Any food items** are welcome whether or not they are on the list for the month. This is a small way we can respond to the effect of the shutdown.

Green Team Tip

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

25th ONA Anniversary Celebration - Sunday, January 27th



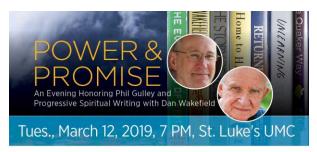
Sunday, January 27th, there will be a special 11:00 worship service celebrating our 25th anniversary of being Open and Affirming. Music, dance, plus cake and ice cream!

EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE NEEDED - IHN



Assistance is needed by an IHN hosting congregation. There was a large fire at New Bethel Missionary Baptist Church. Everyone was okay. A large part of the church property where families are hosted in the IHN program was severely damaged, leaving a gap in hosting February 17-24 and other weeks. St. Mark's United Methodist generously agreed to keep families the week of February 17-24, but requested help recruiting volunteers for meals, driving, overnight, etc. Would you please consider signing up for one volunteer role (the sign up covers both their back-to-back hosting weeks, so feel free if unavailable 2/17-24 to instead sign up for a role 2/10-17) using the sign up genius link. Thank you for considering!

https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c094ba9a722a13-interfaith16



Join Christian Theological Seminary to honor Phil Gulley and the power of progressive spiritual writing on March 12 at 7:00 p.m. at St. Luke's United Methodist Church, 100 W. 86th St.

Admission: \$25 (free for students) Register <u>here</u>.

January Mission of the Month is The Open & Affirming Coalition

The Open and Affirming Coalition of the United Church of Christ has been operating for over 30 years with the responsibility for the church-wide ONA movement. As of January 1, 2019, there are now 1,500 ONA congregations! The ONA Coalition is an independent, non-profit organization and receives no regular funding from OCWM. 75% of its operating budget relies on donations from individuals and contributing ONA churches. Thank you for your support of this Mission of the Month.

Pantry Items of the Month



During January we are collecting the following items: Bread, Soup, Applesauce, and Shampoo.

Pastoral Care

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

THIS WEEK AT FIRST CONGREGATIONAL

Thursday, January 17	7:00 p.m.	Choir Rehearsal
Sunday, January 20	9:45 a.m.	Adult Sunday Class
Sunday, January 20	11:00 a.m.	Worship
Sunday, January 20	12:30 p.m.	Worship & Faith Board Meeting
Sunday, January 20	2:00 p.m.	Church wide Spiritual Retreat Planning
Tuesday, January 22	9:00 a.m.	Foundation Meeting
Wednesday, January 23	6:30 p.m.	Calling Circle
Thursday, January 24	11:45 a.m.	Women's Lunch
Thursday, January 24	1:00 p.m.	Men's Lunch
Thursday, January 24	7:00 p.m.	Choir Rehearsal
Sunday, January 27	9:45 a.m.	Adult Sunday Class
Sunday, January 27	11:00 a.m.	Worship w/ 25 th ONA Anniversary Celebration
Sunday, January 27	12:30 p.m.	Annual Meeting with pitch-in lunch



Forward



FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

E-pistle for the Week of January 17, 2019

Minister's Message

Dear First Congregational,

We've got a very special worship service planned this Sunday at 11am as we celebrate a quarter of a century as an Open and Affirming congregation. This is a great Sunday to bring family, friends and neighbors to experience this special celebration. Afterwards all are invited for pitch-in lunch and ONA cake!

Of course we will begin our Annual Meeting at 12:30pm, so come join us for a wonderful morning together as we grow together in God's love and plan for our hopeful future.

Blessings, Pastor Sarah

Worship

Adult Class - 9:45 a.m.

January 27 - We continue discussing current events and articles from <u>Christian</u> <u>Century</u> or <u>Sojourners</u>.

Worship Service - 11:00 a.m.

This Sunday, January 27th, there will be a special 11:00 worship service celebrating our 25th anniversary of being Open and Affirming. Join us for music and dance, followed by cake and ice cream!

Pastor Sarah will preach on "A More Excellent Way: 25 Years of ONA." Scripture: 1 Corinthians 12:12-31a



What's Happening at FCC

THIS SUNDAY!!! Annual Meeting at 12:30pm



Please let your voice be heard - come to the annual meeting to discuss and vote on the direction of our church for 2019 - we will elect our officers and board members, we will discuss and vote on our budget and endowment, and we will determine our calling to be a 'just peace' church. It is the primary meeting of the year that focuses on how ALL our resources are put to use to spread God's love! Join together for a pitch in lunch right after the service before the meeting starts.

All Church Board Retreat - Saturday, February 2nd, 9:00 a.m. - Noon

All newly 2019 elected Board members plan to be present for this All Church Board Retreat.

Lenten Planning - Wednesday, February 6th, 6:30 p.m.

A beloved tradition in the springtime at FCC is engaging in a Lenten series that is challenging, enlightening, and meaningful. Please join Pastor Sarah and Lianna Campos to explore ideas for alternative worship for Lent this year! We will meet on Wednesday, February 6th at 6:30 to begin planning. Please contact Lianna at <u>lcampos33@gmail.com</u> or 317-954-1601 with any questions or comments.



The shutdown is affecting food banks nationwide as government workers without paychecks are resorting to them for food assistance. If this drags on much longer, SNAP recipients will also make greater demands on food pantries. <u>Please bring</u> <u>extra food over the next several weeks to help meet this unexpected need.</u> **Any food items** are welcome whether or not they are on the list for the month. This is a small way we can respond to the effect of the shutdown.

Green Team Tip 🛟

Have you cultivated the habit of turning lights off as you exit a room? Even if you plan to return? It pays to turn them off if you are gone longer than 90 seconds.

EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE NEEDED - IHN



Assistance is needed by an IHN hosting congregation. There was a large fire at New Bethel Missionary Baptist Church. Everyone was okay. A large part of the church property where families are hosted in the IHN program was severely damaged, leaving a gap in hosting February 17-24 and other weeks. St. Mark's United Methodist generously agreed to keep families the week of February 17-24, but requested help recruiting volunteers for meals, driving, overnight, etc. Would you please consider signing up for one volunteer role (the sign up covers both their back-to-back hosting weeks, so feel free if unavailable 2/17-24 to instead sign up for a role 2/10-17) using the sign up genius

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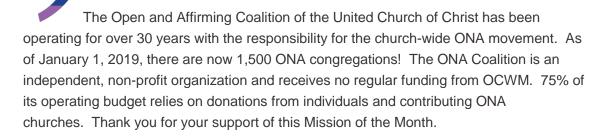


Join Christian Theological Seminary to honor Phil Gulley and the power of progressive spiritual writing on March 12 at 7:00 p.m. at St. Luke's United Methodist Church, 100 W. 86th St.

Admission: \$25 (free for students) Register <u>here</u>.

Save the Date: All-Church Retreat will be **March 22-23** at the Benedict Inn. Look for registration details coming soon. Talk to Pastor Sarah for more information.

January Mission of the Month is The Open & Affirming Coalition



Pantry Items of the Month



During January we are collecting the following items: Bread, Soup, Applesauce, and Shampoo.

Pastoral Care

Pastor Sarah can be reached at (386) 478-9012 or at <u>pastorsarah@fcindy.org.</u> **Please note:** While Pastor Sarah is away serving the wider church on the Bethany Fellows Leadership Team mentoring young pastors (January 28-31), Carol Sowle can be reached for pastoral care at (317)496-9732 or at <u>casowle@gmail.com</u>.

THIS WEEK AT FIRST CONGREGATIONAL

Thursday, January 24	11:45 a.m.	Women's Lunch
Thursday, January 24	1:00 p.m.	Men's Lunch
Thursday, January 24	7:00 p.m.	Choir Rehearsal
Sunday, January 27	9:45 a.m.	Sunday Adult Class
Sunday, January 27	11:00 a.m.	Worship
Sunday, January 27	12:30 p.m.	Annual Meeting
Thursday, January 31	7:00 p.m.	Choir Rehearsal
Saturday, February 2	9:00 a.m.	Board Retreat
Sunday, February 3	9:45 a.m.	Adult Sunday Class with guest, Rev. Michael Neuroth
Sunday, February 3	11:00 a.m.	Worship with guest preacher, Rev. Michael Neuroth
Sunday, February 3	12:30 p.m.	Just Peace Buzz & pitch-in lunch with Rev. Michael Neuroth



FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

E-pistle for the Week of January 31, 2019

Message

Dear Partners in Christ:

The vision of a body united –in purpose, in mission, in vision – is one that inspired the birth of our denomination. All of our spiritual impulses reverberate in an effort to call us into a more perfect union. Throughout our shared history as a people of faith and as a part of the Body of Christ, we have challenged ourselves to widen the circle of inclusion. Widening the circle has always come with growth pains as we shed old skins and welcome those whom we had previously thought unwelcome. And, with each new articulation of a more fully expressed Body of Christ we have realized new joy. Through it all we remain focused on the call to be one and committed to meeting the challenges inherent in that call.

We are now living in and through a season when the threats to unity are legion. Talk of walls that mark refugees as threats, labels like 'terrorist' that attach too easily to Muslims,

overt racial bias that normalizes fear and hatred, a pandemic of abuse to women with the trigger reflex to forgive the men who author that abuse have turned America into a land many of us no longer recognize and that too many of us are finding harder and harder to reconcile with our faith.

Now more than ever, the Holy Spirit of the Living God and the Risen Christ is seeking to partner with anyone committed to unifying the human community. The gospel mandate to love our neighbor as we love ourselves resonates deep within us. It calls for the better angels among and within us to always resist impulses to hate, to condemn, to vilify, or to castigate. In such a time as this, the United Church of Christ's call to fulfill the prayer of Jesus, that they may all be one, stands as an urgent mandate to disciples who envision a just world for all.

United with you in God's service,

The Rev. Dr. John C. Dorhauer General Minister and President



Worship

Adult Class - 9:45 a.m.

February 3: We will welcome guest pastor Michael Neuroth to address our class about issues of Justice.

On Sun Jan 27th, the Adult Education class discussed immigration and wrote letters to Congress to encourage a long term solution to immigration problems rather than short term fixes that do not promote stability and continuity in policy for those coming to the U.S. and those already here. We spoke to our faith and our desire to have all people treated with

respect.

If anyone else would like to contact their legislators, on the table in the Narthex below the winter wall hanging is a sheet containing our Senators and 5th and 7th district House representatives addresses and phone numbers. There is also paper to use for your letter. Please send your letter to the Congressperson's Indianapolis address so it doesn't get caught in the extensive mail check that delays any mail sent to Congress persons' Washington address until it can be certified to be free of poisons.

You will note there is no Indianapolis office for Mike Braun, possibly because he is a new office holder. You can phone his office 202-224-4814 and leave a message asking him to set up an Indianapolis office. That might encourage him to get this vital link to his constituents set up sooner rather than later.

If anyone who has not attended the Education hour is interested in joining us please feel free to attend our sessions at the time listed above in the Adult Library on the 2nd floor.

Worship Service - 11:00 a.m.

Guest preacher, Rev. Michael Neuroth will preach on Just Peace: What's Love Got To Do With It?

Scripture: Jeremiah 1:4-10 & 1 Corinthians 13:1-13

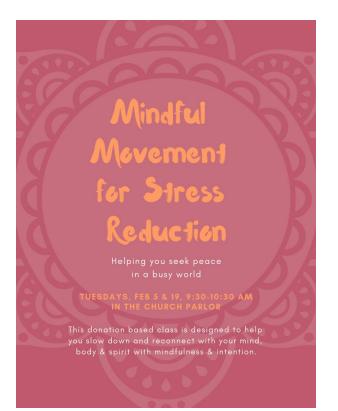
What's Happening at FCC

All Church Board Retreat - Saturday, February 2nd, 9:00 a.m. - Noon

All newly 2019 elected Board members plan to be present for this All Church Board Retreat.

February Buzz - February 3, 12:30 p.m.: At this month's Buzz, we welcome guest, Rev. Michael Neuroth, as he leads a discussion on UCC Justice Ministries and what it means to be a Just Peace Church. Please join us for discussion and a light lunch.

Mindful Movement - February 5 & 19, 9:30 a.m.



Lenten Planning - Wednesday, February 6th, 6:30 p.m.



Lenten series that is challenging, enlightening, and meaningful. Please join Pastor Sarah and Lianna Campos to explore ideas for alternative worship for Lent this year! We will meet on Wednesday, February 6th at 6:30 to begin planning. Please contact Lianna at <u>lcampos33@gmail.com</u> or 317-954-1601 with any questions or comments.

Friends of First Jazz Trio



Join us Saturday February 16th in the Mayflower room for a concert of music presented by our worship musicians Julie Houston, Sean Baker, and Jesse Wittman. These musicians' careers have expanded beyond the roles of choir director, organist, and bassist for worship services. Julie will bring us some of her expertise in Brazillian music and jazz. Sean's inventive and sometimes comical arrangements of standards will delight you. If you've never heard a string bass player really swing, Jesse is one of the best jazz bass soloists in the city! The concert starts at 7:00 p.m. but come early to get your choice of desserts.

Tickets are \$10 and available each Sunday after church. Please see any choir member.



The shutdown has affected food banks nationwide as government workers without paychecks resorted (and in some cases are still resorting) to them for food assistance. If the shutdown returns in 3 weeks, SNAP recipients may also make greater demands on food pantries. <u>Please bring extra food over the next several weeks to help</u> <u>meet this unexpected need</u>. **Any food items are welcome whether or not they are on the list for the month**. This is a small way we can respond to the effect of the shutdown.

Green Team Tip 🗳

It surprises many people that chargers take electricity even if not charging. Plan to remove these from plugs when not charging (computers, phones, lpad, Kindles, etc.)

EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE NEEDED - IHN



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Save the Date: All-Church Retreat will be **March 22-23** at the Benedict Inn. Look for registration details coming soon. Talk to Pastor Sarah for more information.

February Mission of the Month is Peace Learning Center

As our church becomes 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. Through the modeling of behaviors, community collaboration, and by providing services, the PLC values:

- Peaceful resolution of all conflicts
- Strength of diversity in our community
- The potential of youth

• Responsible stewardship of the environment and community resources

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 <u>www.peacelearningcenter.org</u>





During February we are collecting the following items: jelly/ jam, pasta, canned tuna/chicken, bar soap.

Pastoral Care

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THIS WEEK AT FIRST CONGREGATIONAL

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Saturday, February 2	9:00 a.m.	Board Retreat
Sunday, February 3	12:30 p.m.	Buzz on Just Peace, & light lunch w/ Rev. Michael Neuroth
Tuesday, February 5	9:00 a.m.	Mindful Movement for Stress Reduction
Tuesday, February 5	2:00 p.m.	Mental Health Team
Wednesday, February 6	6:30 p.m.	Trustees Meeting
Thursday, February 7	1:00 p.m.	Men's Lunch
Thursday, February 7	7:00 p.m.	Choir Rehearsal
Saturday, February 9	9:00 a.m.	Outreach & Service Meeting
Saturday, February 9	10:30 a.m.	Bell Choir Rehearsal (library)
Sunday, February 10	9:45 a.m.	Adult Sunday Class
Sunday, February 10	11:00 a.m.	Worship: Sacred Organ Music Sunday w/ guest organist, Charles Manning

Sunday, February 10