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FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

e-pistle for the week of November 1, 2018

Minister's Message

Dear First Congregational Family,

Last Sunday we joyfully celebrated visible signs of new life in our congregation with three baptisms and three new members joining us in covenant with God and one another to:

- serve God with faithfulness;
- treat one another with acceptance, love, and compassion;
- bear witness to the world with love; and
- live our faith humbly, yet boldly.

Thank you to each of you for helping to create, sustain, and nurture a community of faith where people find belonging, healing and love. As we grow in membership and

faithfulness, may we continue to be open to the new life God is bringing to our church, including all of the changes and challenges.

In my professional experiences of leading church growth, transformation and revitalization, I can tell you that it's exciting and rewarding ministry. It's God working with us and through us to do something good in the world. It is sometimes messy and uncomfortable, but often it is beautiful and joyful to see how God's grace, mercy, and love show up time and time again.

May God bless all of the saints of the church, past, present, and future, as we continue to seek to be a servant community of Jesus Christ.

Blessings,
Pastor Sarah

P.S. While I am away, serving the wider church at Widening the Welcome, a UCC ministry for disabilities and inclusion, I leave you in good hands. Nancy Dickinson will preach this Sunday, and Rev. Worth Hartman will be available for pastoral care through November 6th. I will return the office on Wednesday, November 7th, and look forward to seeing you all at Fearless Dialogues at 9am on Sunday, November 11th.

Worship for Sunday

Adult Class

This Sunday, the Adult Class will continue its study of "Reclaiming Jesus: A Confession of Faith in a Time of Crisis," as we discuss the topic "We are One Body."

Traditional Service - 11:00 a.m.

Nancy Dickinson is preaching this Sunday, and Rev. Worth Hartman will be presiding over Communion.

New Creation - 5:30 p.m.

With Pastor Sarah's absence serving the wider church, this Sunday New Creation we'll take a different path. We'll spend our time together delving into the Scripture passage Ruth 1:1-18, exploring what the passage says to us individually, communally, and what it might say to the world. For those who attend morning worship, this is an opportunity for "sermon talk-back." For others it's a Bible Study opportunity. For all, it's an opportunity to

see how the New Creation planning team does it's work! All are welcome.

What's Happening at FCC

A Special Invitation - Friday November 2, 6:00 p.m.

A special invitation to members and friends of First Congregational UCC from our neighbor and friend, Rabbi Dennis Sasso:

Join us in a Shabbat of holiness and joy, solidarity and remembrance to honor the memory of the victims of senseless hatred in Pittsburgh

Congregation Beth-El Zedeck

600 W. 70th Street

Friday, November 2

6:00 p.m.

Shoes, Shoes Shoes

We are wrapping up our shoe collecting drive next week, as we've been collecting gently used shoes to support ZION UCC (Troy Ave) shoe drive. Place your shoes in the boxes in the narthex THANKS!

Lonesome No More - Thursday, November 8, 6:00-8:00 p.m.

Explore the ways different faith communities deal with loneliness and its effect. Learn how you can help and get connected!

The evening will feature American journalist William Bole, co-author of *The Life of Meaning: Reflections on Faith, Doubt, and Repairing the World*, in conversation with Rev. John E. Denson, Jr., our own Rev. Dr. Sarah Lund, Dr. Halima Al-Khattab, and Rabbi Kate Briggs.

This event is Free and open to the public. Walk-ins are welcome, and RSVPs are encouraged at www.spiritandplace.org

Congregation Beth-El Zedeck

600 W. 70th St.

Indianapolis, IN 46260

Fearless Dialogues - November 11, 9:00am

Fearless Dialogues is coming to First Congregational Sunday, November 11 from 9-10:30am in the Mayflower Room, we will finish in time for 11am worship. Join Professor Greg Ellison of Candler School of Ethology and author of the book *Fearless Dialogues*, for a transformative, interactive experience where we engage in practicing the skills we need for having "fearless dialogues" about topics we are passionate about. This event is co-sponsored by Worship and Faith and Witness and Welcome and is open to all who wish to

be challenged and to grow.

What Shall We Bring?

We continue to ask ourselves this question as we prepare our pledges for conservation during worship on November 18th.

Alternative Gift Event at Hoosier Village - November 18, 2:00-6:00pm

Members and friends of FCC are invited to attend this first annual event to be held at the Chapel of Hoosier Village on Sunday, November 18 from 2-6p.m. The goal of this event is to bring together non-profit agencies who serve the poor and disadvantaged and those with special needs in the Indianapolis and Zionsville area. Hoosier Village is located just off of W. 96th St., at 9875 Cherryleaf Dr., between Michigan Rd. and Zionsville Rd.

If you come to the Alternative Gift Event, you will have the opportunity to meet representatives of 12-16 non-profit agencies. You will learn about their mission and the variety of services they provide and be able to make donations in the name of your loved ones. In return for a donation, you will receive a personalized thank you card noting the agency you are supporting and the name of the person you are honoring with your gift. If you have questions, please contact FCC members Rev. Daryl or Anne Greene or Sue Chapman, who serve on the event planning team.

Songs at 7171: Rhythm Quest, November 18, 3:00pm

Music and rhythm have played a role in nearly all of the world's religions. On November 18 at 3:00 PM percussionists Julian Douglas and Michael Rutherford will share some of the common characteristics that make music an indispensable part of many religious experiences and how we can use rhythm to make deeper spiritual connections. No one should miss this opportunity for immersion in Rhythm Quest's spiritual journey, so please plan to bring whatever drum or rhythm instruments you may have access to. See the sign-up sheet in the narthex. Learn more about Rhythm Quest at www.rhythmquest.net. And of course, no one should miss the Thanksgiving snacks that will be part of this gathering!

Flowers Needed

Flowers have a way of bringing beauty into the worship service. There are several empty Sundays on the Flower Calendar located on the bulletin board by the garden doors. Will you sign up for a Sunday? The flowers can be for any occasion and come from the florist, store, or your garden. The cost is \$25 from our florist. If you have any questions, please email Sally Coombs at sallysews73@gmail.com or call 317-446-2853. You can also let Shannon know the occasion at shannon@fcindy.org or call the church office at 317-257-5397.

The following dates are currently available in the Flower Calendar:

November 18

December 9, 16 and 30

Guided Meditation at Hoosier Village

FCC members and friends are invited to attend guided meditation sessions at Hoosier Village. The Meditation Circle meets every Saturday (except Thanksgiving) at 7 p.m. in the Great Hall Conference Room. Use the Chapel parking lot and turn right after entering the hallway. We are listening to Guided Imagery Meditations to let go of stress and find peace and healing. No previous meditation experience necessary. Contact Anne or Daryl Greene for more information.

Green Team Tip

Early voting has begun! - Please vote! But before you do, look at the climate change viewpoint of your candidates.

Foundation - 1857 Society

The newly formed **1857 Society** is up and running. All of us who include First Congregational in our wills or estate plans are eligible to join. Doing so strengthens the church's long term financial base, allowing us to do more of God's work. Consider if this is something of enduring value in which you'd like to participate. Commitment forms are available in the narthex or from the office.

November Mission of the Month is Merom Camp & Retreat Center

I am a believer of the phrase "Catch the Merom Spirit". It is an experience that can be seen, felt and witnessed and whatever else one experiences when attending an event at Merom Camp & Retreat Center, Inc.

I have attended many events at Merom throughout the years, Women's Retreats, 5 K Walks, Young Ambassadors programs, the marriage of my niece Roxanne Hamm just to name a few. But nothing could prepare me for what was to come. The camp Creative Spirit presented the play "Mary Poppins" on their last night of camp. The auditorium was HOT (could use a cooling system) and some of the stage lights went out. While waiting to get the lights fixed, the cast and the youth in the audience started singing. When they sang a version of "Amazing Grace", it brought tears to my eyes and the feeling that God was among us. Oh to "Catch the Merom Spirit".

Please contribute to Merom Camp & Retreat Center, Inc. to support all it has to offer children of ALL AGES.

Pantry Items of the Month

During November we are collecting the following items: fruit cocktail, spaghetti sauce,

quick oats, and toothpaste.

Pastoral Care

While Pastor Sarah is away November 1-6, serving the wider church at Widening the Welcome, a UCC ministry for disabilities and inclusion, you may contact Rev. Worth Hartman for pastoral care at (317) 417-0806 or whartman@westminstervillage.com. After November 6th, Pastor Sarah may be contacted at (386) 478 - 9012 or at pastorsarah@fcindy.org.

This Week at First Congregational

November 4	9:45 a.m.	Adult Class
November 4	11:00 a.m.	Traditional Service with Nancy Dickinson
November 4	5:30 p.m.	New Creation
Monday, November 7	7:00 p.m.	Trustees Meeting
Monday, November 7	7:30 p.m.	New Creation Planning Team
Tuesday, November 8	11:00 a.m.	Witness & Welcome
Tuesday, November 8	7:00 p.m.	Choir Rehearsal
Wednesday, November 10	7:00 p.m.	Meditation at Hoosier Village
November 11	9:00 a.m.	Fearless Dialogue
November 11	11:00 a.m.	Traditional Service
November 11	5:30 p.m.	New Creation

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FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

e-pistle for the week of November 8, 2018

Minister's Message

Dear First Congregational Family,

Join me this Sunday morning at 9am for “Fearless Dialogues,” a time for all of us in the church to be together as we are led by nationally recognized speaker and author Rev. Dr. Greg Ellison. You don't want to miss it!

As we continue to grow into who God is calling us to be as a faith community, I am confident that knowing how to engage in “Fearless Dialogues” is a key part of our vitality and health.

Dr. Ellison has taken “Fearless Dialogues” around the world and is in Indianapolis this week as part of the Lilly Endowment programming and he is carving out extra time in his trip to be with us at First Congregational, so please help to welcome him and his team. To learn more, go to their website: <http://fearlessdialogues.com/>

See you Sunday!

Blessings,
Pastor Sarah

Worship for Sunday

Adult Class - 9:00am (NEW TIME THIS WEEK!)

This Sunday, the Adult Class will host Fearless Dialogues with Rev. Dr. Greg Ellison. (See more in "What's Happening at FCC" below.)

Traditional Service - 11:00 a.m.

Pastor Sarah will preach on "Your Greatest Gift."

Scripture: Mark 12:38-44

New Creation - 5:30 p.m.

This Sunday in New Creation Worship we continue our focus during Stewardship season on the question, "What shall we bring?" As we explore the scripture passage from Mark 12:38-44, we'll consider how our financial giving to the church reflects our beliefs and values. Discussions of money don't always have to be totally serious, though, so some light-hearted fun will be a part of this service as well. All are welcome.

What's Happening at FCC

Lonesome No More - TODAY, November 8, 6:00-8:00 p.m.

Explore the ways different faith communities deal with loneliness and its effect. Learn how you can help and get connected!

The evening will feature American journalist William Bole, co-author of *The Life of Meaning: Reflections on Faith, Doubt, and Repairing the World*, in conversation with Rev. John E. Denson, Jr., our own Rev. Dr. Sarah Lund, Dr. Halima Al-Khattab, and Rabbi Kate Briggs.

**LONESOME
NO
MORE**
through faith communities

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 8 | 6-8 PM
FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC. FREE PARKING AVAILABLE.
CONGREGATION BETH-EL ZEDECK
600 W. 70TH ST., INDIANAPOLIS, IN 46260

A Spirit and Place Festival Event
Spirit & Place Festival

Explore the ways different faith communities deal with loneliness and its effect. Learn how you can help and get connected!

The evening will feature American journalist William Bole, co-author of *The Life of Meaning: Reflections on Faith, Doubt, and Repairing the World*, in conversation with Rev. John E. Denson, Jr., Rev. Dr. Sarah Griffith Lund, Dr. Halima Al-Khattab, and Rabbi Kate Briggs.

Hosts are Rabbi Dennis C. Sasso of Congregation Beth-El Zedeck and Julia Whitehead, Founder & CEO of the Kurt Vonnegut Museum & Library.

Artist Kyle Ragsdale will unveil a painting that he created based on and during the moderated conversation. Refreshments provided.

FREE PARKING AVAILABLE
WALK-INS WELCOME
RSVP ENCOURAGED AT WWW.SPIRITANDPLACE.ORG

FREE

Presented by Kurt Vonnegut Museum and Library, Center for Interfaith Cooperation, Congregation Beth-El Zedeck, and National Alliance on Mental Health (NAMI) FaithNet. Supported by Mickey and Janie Maurer and Congregation Beth-El Zedeck's Judaism, Arts, Interfaith and Civic Engagement Fund in honor of Rabbi Dennis and Sandy Sasso.

This event is Free and open to the public. Walk-ins are welcome, and RSVPs are encouraged at www.spiritandplace.org

Congregation Beth-El Zedeck
600 W. 70th St.
Indianapolis, IN 46260

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Join Professor

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FCC members and friends are invited to attend guided meditation sessions at Hoosier Village. The Meditation Circle meets every Saturday (except Thanksgiving) at 7 p.m. in the Great Hall Conference Room. Use the Chapel parking lot and turn right after entering the hallway. We are listening to Guided Imagery Meditations to let go of stress and find peace and healing. No previous meditation experience necessary. Contact Anne or Daryl Greene for more information.

Green Team Tip

Save gas by keeping your tires inflated to at least their recommended pressure. For even more mpg, fill your tires with nitrogen.

November Mission of the Month is Merom Camp & Retreat Center

Merom Camp & Retreat Center, Inc. have a Capital Campaign with goals to ensure the use of College Hall, for maintenance work to be done on Hatten Chapel (100 years old) and to build a cabin with 56 beds all to help Merom continue to grow and better serve all who come. Support Merom by putting a donation in the Missions envelope or write a check to FCC with Merom in the memo line.

Pantry Items of the Month

During November we are collecting the following items: fruit cocktail, spaghetti sauce, quick oats, and toothpaste.

Pastoral Care

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

This Week at First Congregational

Sunday, November 11	9:00 a.m.	Fearless Dialogues with guest, Rev. Dr. Greg Ellison
Sunday, November 11	11:30 a.m.	Traditional Service
Sunday, November 11	12:15 p.m.	Worship & Faith Board Meeting
Sunday, November 11	5:30 p.m.	New Creation Worship Service
Wednesday, November 14	6:30 p.m.	Church Counsel
Wednesday, November 14	7:30 p.m.	New Creation Planning Team
Thursday, November 15	1:00 p.m.	Men's Lunch
Thursday, November 15	7:00 p.m.	Indianapolis Green Congregations
Thursday, November 15	7:00 p.m.	Choir Rehearsal
Sunday, November 18	9:45 a.m.	Sunday Adult Class

Sunday, November 18

11:00 a.m. Traditional Service

Sunday, November 18

3:00 p.m. Rhythm Quest Workshop

Sunday, November 18

5:30 p.m. New Creation Worship Service

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FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

e-pistle for the week of November 15, 2018

Minister's Message

Dear First Congregational Family,

What shall we bring? God invites us to bring our whole selves as we seek to follow in the way of Jesus. There is no right or wrong answer to this question. The key is to listen deeply to how God is speaking to you. We invite you to explore God's invitation to be part of God's mission in the world. Join us this Sunday for a special Sunday as we bless our offerings of pledges of time, talent and treasure during worship. (There will be extra pledge cards at church this Sunday).

When we connect our passions, our energies, and our resources with God and one another...it truly is amazing what is possible. I am excited to see where God will lead our congregation as we seek to bring our whole selves to the mission and ministry of the church as we seek to be a servant community of Jesus Christ.

Blessings,

Pastor Sarah

Worship for Sunday

Adult Class - 9:45am

The Adult Class continues its study of "Reclaiming Jesus: A Confession of Faith in a Time of Crisis" this Sunday with a discussion on the topic, "Truth is Morally Central to Our Personal and Public Lives."

Traditional Service - 11:00 a.m.

Pastor Sarah will preach on "Love Offerings."

Scripture: 1 Samuel 9:5-10

New Creation - 5:30 p.m.

Thanksgiving Sunday at FCC will bring us many gifts for which to be thankful, starting with a special creative worship service in the morning. Another of those gifts will be the opportunity to engage in some spiritual renewal with Rhythm Quest in their concert/workshop at 3:00 PM in the Mayflower Room. The day will culminate with Rhythm Quest's contributions to New Creation Worship. Mike and Julian will share more of their music (hopefully with some audience participation) during our afternoon time of worship when we consecrate more of our gifts to FCC and the wider church. This special service should not be missed, so we hope many will stay after the concert for pie and worship.

From the Admin's Desk

The December Colony Deadline is TODAY! If you have an announcement or article you would like included in the December Colony, please email it to me today at shannon@fcindy.org. Thank you!

The church office will be closed November 22-23 to celebrate the Thanksgiving holiday with family and friends. Please get all bulletin and epistle announcements to me no later than 8:30 a.m. Wednesday, November 21st, and watch for the Epistle to come out Thanksgiving Day!

With Gratitude,

Shannon Abbott

What's Happening at FCC

What Shall We Bring?

We continue to ask ourselves this question as we prepare our pledges for consecration during worship this Sunday, November 18th.

Alternative Gift Event at Hoosier Village - November 18, 2:00-6:00pm

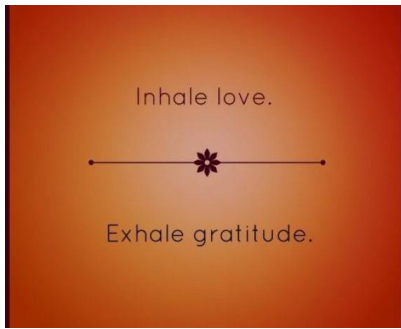
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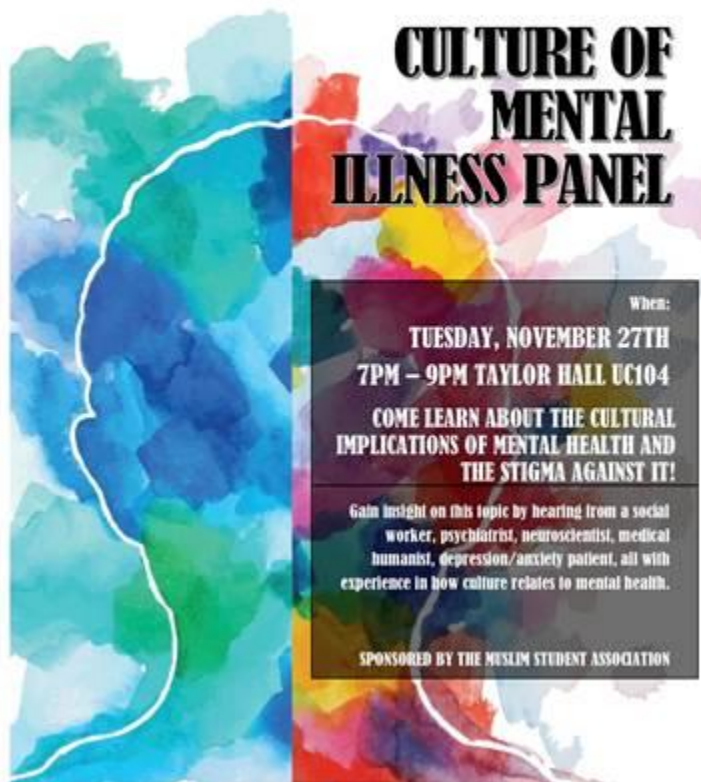
Gratitude Yoga & Meditation – November 21



The Mental Health Team is offering Gratitude Yoga and Meditation in the parlor with Shannon Abbott on Wednesday, November 21, 12:00-1:00p.m. This gentle practice of mindful, stress-reducing movement will also offer the option of modifications using a chair, so all are welcome to participate. Please email Shannon at shannon@fcindy.org for more information and to register. A free-will, gratitude offering is appreciated.

Culture of Mental Illness Panel at IU - November 27th

You are invited to attend the Culture of Mental Illness on November 27th from 7:00-9:00 p.m. It is located at IU's Taylor Hall, Room UC104. Pastor Sarah will be one of the panelist.



In Memory

A memorial service will be held on Friday, November 30 at 11:00 a.m. in honor of the life of Marilyn Hennegan. All are welcome to attend.

Hanging of the Greens



Come one, come all to help decorate the parlor, narthex and sanctuary for the Advent Season on Saturday December 1st from 10:00AM-12:00PM. Any questions, email Sally Coombs at sallysews73@gmail.com or call 317-446-2853.

Flowers Needed

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hallway. We are listening to Guided Imagery Meditations to let go of stress and find peace and healing. No previous meditation experience necessary. Contact Anne or Daryl Greene for more information.

Green Team Tip 

An idling vehicle uses a cup of gasoline in one minute. Avoid drive-thru's (unless you're in a hybrid vehicle). If the line is long, turn off your engine while you wait, or park your car and order inside the restaurant.

November Mission of the Month is Merom Camp & Retreat Center

Merom Camp & Retreat Center, Inc. is taking steps to go "GREEN." Current goals: to install 10 motion light switches in College Hall. And to gradually install heating/cooling units (similar to what is in the church parlor) for all the buildings. Support Merom by putting a donation in the Missions envelope or write a check to FCC with Merom in the memo line.

Pantry Items of the Month

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Pastoral Care

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

This Week at First Congregational

Thursday, November 15	1:00 p.m.	Men's Lunch
Thursday, November 15	7:00 p.m.	Indianapolis Green Congregations
Thursday, November 15	7:00 p.m.	Choir Rehearsal
Saturday, November 17	7:00 p.m.	Guided Meditation at Hoosier Village
Sunday, November 18	9:45 a.m.	Adult Class
Sunday, November 18	11:00 a.m.	Consecration Sunday
Sunday, November 18	2:00 p.m.	Alternative Gift Event – Hoosier Village
Sunday, November 18	3:00 p.m.	Rhythm Quest Event
Sunday, November 18	5:30 p.m.	New Creation Worship Service
Tuesday, November 20	1:30 p.m.	Circle IV
Tuesday, November 20	7:00 p.m.	Community Interfaith Thanksgiving Worship – St. Paul's Episcopal Church
Wednesday, November 21	12:00 p.m.	Gratitude Yoga (in the Parlor)
Wednesday, November 21	7:00 p.m.	Witness & Welcome

Wednesday, November 21

7:30 p.m.

New Creation Planning Team

Thursday, November 22

HAPPY THANKSGIVING!

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FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

e-pistle for the week of November 22, 2018



Minister's Message

Dear First Congregational Family,

Tuesday night I helped to lead worship along with the Interfaith Ministerial Association for our annual Community Thanksgiving worship service. It was great to see First Congregational friends there for a powerful evening together. I was especially moved by this prayer shared by Rabbi Shelley Goldman, who serves at Congregation Beth El-Zedeck. You may want to share this prayer around your tables as you gather with friends and family to give thanks:

A Rabbinic Thanksgiving Prayer: Modim Anachnu Lach (Translation: "We give our thanks to You")

We give thanks to you that are THE ALL-MERCIFUL, our God, God of our ancestors, today and always. A firm, enduring source of life, a shield to us in time of trial, you are ever there, from age to age. We acknowledge you, declare your praise, and thank you for our lives entrusted to your hand, our souls placed in your care, for your miracles that greet us every day, and for your wonders and the good things that are with us every hour, morning, noon, and night. Good One, whose kindness never stops, Kind One, whose loving acts have never failed - always have we placed our hope in you. For all these things, let your name be blessed and raised in honor always, sovereign of ours, forever. Let all of life acknowledge you! May all beings praise your name in truth, O God, our rescue and our aid. Blessed are you THE GRACIOUS ONE, whose name is good, to whom all thanks are due.

I give thanks for each of you at First Congregational UCC and the ways we come together to support the mission of our church: to be a servant community of Jesus Christ.

With Blessings and Thanksgiving,
Pastor Sarah

Worship for Sunday

Adult Class - NO CLASS this week

Traditional Service - 11:00 a.m.

Guest preacher, Rev. John Heckman will be preaching this Sunday while Pastor Sarah is away on vacation visiting family in Minnesota for the Thanksgiving holidays. Rev. Heckman served First UCC, Rising Sun, IN from 2004 to 2013 when he retired. Prior to

-serving at Rising Sun, he worked at Raytheon Corp and Naval Avionics Center in Indy. John and his wife, Cindy, live in Greenwood, IN and have 2 children and 3 grandchildren. He is presently a clergy member on the Board of Directors for the Merom Camp and Retreat Center. Additionally, John is serving as the President of the Southeast Association.

Scriptures: John 18:33-37 & Revelation 1:4b-8

New Creation - 5:30 p.m.

This Sunday's New Creation Worship service will have a church camp feel as we do worship Merom-style. If you're uncertain about what that may look like, come and join us in the Mayflower Room. Camp songs and s'mores all around!

New Creation Worship's Sacred Pause

After much thought, deliberation, and discussion by the New Creation Planning Team, the Worship & Faith Board, and Church Council, New Creation Worship will take a "sacred pause" with its last weekly service of 2018 being held on December 2. This decision has not come easily, but with Pastor Sarah's leadership we are experiencing the hand of God leading our church down new paths of spiritual renewal. Our last New Creation Worship service will focus on celebrating the many gifts that we have received through its spiritual nurturance, along with some time to grieve a loss many of us will keenly feel.

With the blessing of the Worship & Faith Board, a new planning team will begin work on the development of a new concept and avenue for alternative worship. New ideas and perspectives will contribute greatly to the process of discernment and development, so we hope others will participate in this endeavor. It's our hope to have something new to offer during 2019 to both our church members and to those who have yet to find us, beginning with a Lenten series. We eagerly anticipate the opportunity to infuse a variety of new thoughts and creative ideas to shape the design and content of that series. Beyond Lent, let's see where this new journey takes us.

New Creation has been a vital part of our church's worship experience for the better part of 12 years, so we hope many will participate on December 2 in the parlor at 5:30 as we begin our sacred pause.

What's Happening at FCC

#GivingTuesday, November 27th

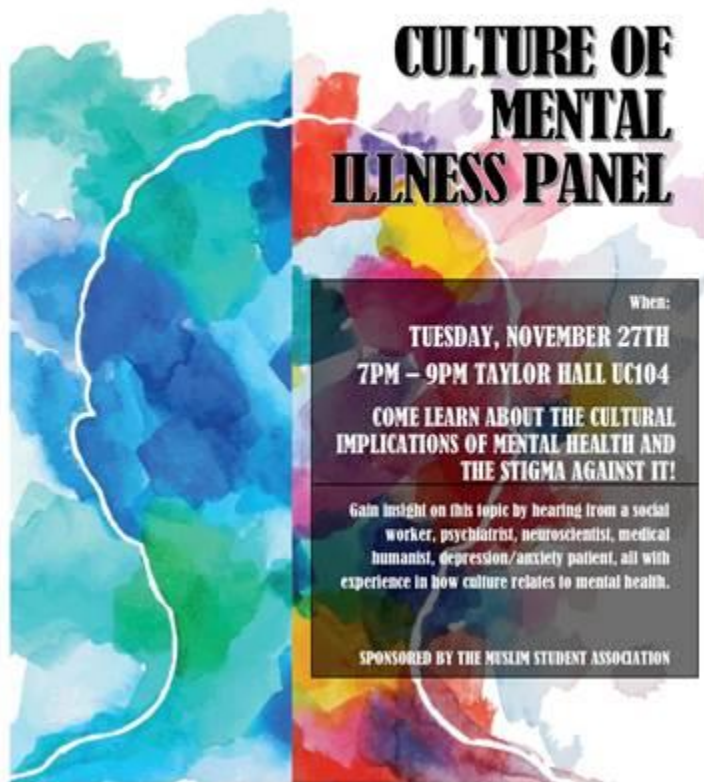
Next Tuesday, the day after Cyber Monday, we are called to embrace Giving Tuesday. It's

a day to focus on our year-end giving. While we fully honor and support our current church drive to pledge for 2019, we also consider 2018 donations to other worthy, charitable causes for which we have special feelings. Places chosen include local or national charities, social causes, education, animal welfare, the environment, and others. At First Congregational we are actively engaged in supporting the Merom Camp and Retreat Center, and the Northside Food Pantry.* We can provide payment through cash, checks, gifts of securities, credit card payments, or pledges. We could also elect to give to the Church for its normal operation or for specific items that are considered important, including those that could serve as a remembrance. Our Church Foundation is a worthy cause too, and gifts to it strengthen the future of First Congregational UCC.

*Gifts to Merom and Northside can be sent directly or sent to the Church with a notation to forward.

Culture of Mental Illness Panel at IU - November 27th

You are invited to attend the Culture of Mental Illness on November 27th from 7:00-9:00 p.m. It is located at the Indianapolis IU Campus at Taylor Hall, Room UC104. Pastor Sarah will be one of the panelist.



In Memory

A memorial service will be held on Friday, November 30 at 11:00 a.m. in honor of the life of Marilyn Hennegan. All are welcome to attend.

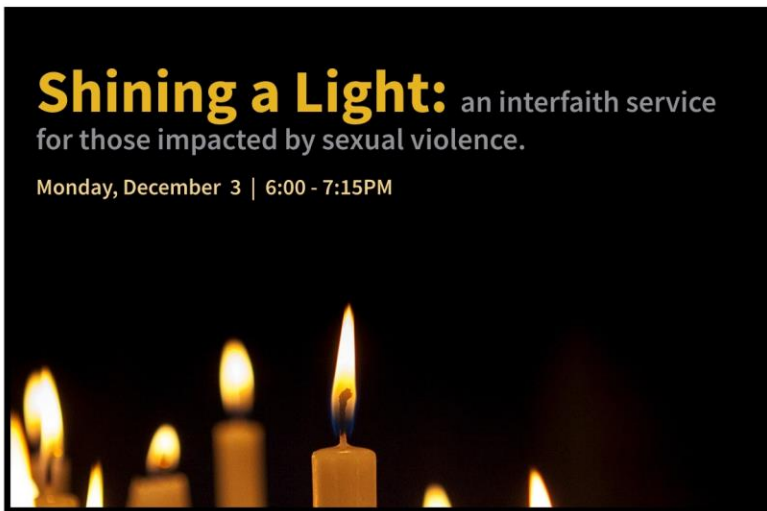


Hanging of the Greens, December 1



Come one, come all to help decorate the parlor, narthex and sanctuary for the Advent Season on Saturday December 1st from 10:00AM-12:00PM. Any questions, email Sally Coombs at sallysews73@gmail.com or call 317-446-2853.

Shining a Light Service, December 3



Shining a Light: an interfaith service for those impacted by sexual violence.

Liturgy of Lament, Protest and Blessing for survivors of sexual assault and harassment, and all impacted by sexual violence.

MONDAY, DECEMBER 3, 2018 | 6:00 - 7:15 P.M.

Trinity Episcopal Church
3243 N Meridian St.
Indianapolis, IN 46208

Participants include:

The Rt. Reverend Jennifer Baskerville-Burrows
Bishop, Episcopal Diocese of Indianapolis

Dr. Leah Gunning Francis
Vice President for Academic Affairs and Dean of the Faculty, and Associate Professor of Christian Education and Practical Theology, Christian Theological Seminary

The Reverend Dr. Sarah Lund
Senior Minister, First Congregational United Church of Christ

Rabbi Sandy Eisenberg Sasso
Senior Rabbi Emerita, Congregation Beth-El Zedeck

Rima Shahid
Executive Director, Women 4 Change Indiana

The Reverend Julia E. Whitworth
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What Shall We Bring?

As we wrap up our Annual Campaign for 2019 resources, thank you to those who have responded! You have pledged to provide for First Congregational's ministries in 2019 that touch so many lives.

For those who have not yet responded, please consider the following:

1. Your pledge of financial and service resources greatly benefits FCC's planning for 2019;
2. Your pledge is an intention to give, and can be changed, either to give more or give less, based on your circumstances;
3. Your pledge is a way to bring your whole self to God and be generous with your

life.

Please try to turn in your pledge by early December in order to assist our boards with preliminary planning. Pledge and service cards are available in the Narthex, and can be deposited in the basket or the offering plate. Or you can contact Shannon Abbott in the Church Office to have cards sent to you.

What shall we bring? Thank you to all who share your gifts and help First Congregational be dynamic and vital, energized to be a servant community of Jesus Christ!

Poinsettia Time

It's Advent Season. Please order a poinsettia(s) to help celebrate this special Season. The cost per plant is \$10.00. Any questions see or email Sally Coombs at sallysews73@gmail.com



Flowers Needed

Flowers have a way of bringing beauty into the worship service. There are several empty Sundays on the Flower Calendar located on the bulletin board by the garden doors. Will you sign up for a Sunday? The flowers can be for any occasion and come from the florist, store, or your garden. The cost is \$25 from our florist. If you have any questions, please email Sally Coombs at sallysews73@gmail.com or call 317-446-2853. You can also let Shannon know the occasion at shannon@fcindy.org or call the church office at 317-257-5397.

The following dates are currently available in the Flower Calendar:

December 9, 16 and 30

The Book Party is Back!!

On Friday, December 14th we will read books and do activities with 2 kindergarten classes at IPS 106, 5301 Roxbury, just east of Cathedral High School. The teachers, Ms. Kormos and Mrs. Anderson formerly taught at IPS 42 where several FCC members tutored. It is a terrific way to get into the holiday spirit! We will have 2 sessions, 11:15 a.m. to noon and noon to 12:45 p.m. If you'd like to help with either session, please tell Sandy Wood - her

contact info is csilwood@att.net or 317-225-6206.

Foundation - 1857 Society

The newly formed **1857 Society** is up and running. All of us who include First Congregational in our wills or estate plans are eligible to join. Doing so strengthens the church's long term financial base, allowing us to do more of God's work. Consider if this is something of enduring value in which you'd like to participate. Commitment forms are available in the narthex or from the office.

Guided Meditation at Hoosier Village - Saturdays at 7p.m.

FCC members and friends are invited to attend guided meditation sessions at Hoosier Village. The Meditation Circle meets every Saturday (except Thanksgiving) at 7 p.m. in the Great Hall Conference Room. Use the Chapel parking lot and turn right after entering the hallway. We are listening to Guided Imagery Meditations to let go of stress and find peace and healing. No previous meditation experience necessary. Contact Anne or Daryl Greene for more information.

Green Team Tip

After using the oven for baking pie, turkey, or other holiday use, leave the oven door open for a few minutes and let it help warm the air.

November Mission of the Month is Merom Camp & Retreat Center

Summer camps, Senior's Unlimited, oh my! Spring Connection, Nature's Classroom and more! And more? Confirmation Retreats, Bible 101, just to name of few. There's always some event going on at Merom over 300 days of the year! Support Merom by putting a donation in the Missions envelope or write a check to FCC with Merom in the memo line.

Pantry Items of the Month

During November we are collecting the following items: fruit cocktail, spaghetti sauce, quick oats, and toothpaste.

Lost & Found



Did you lose an earring at church? Do you know someone who did? Contact Shannon in the church office at shannon@fcindy.org or call at 317-257-5397 to reclaim your earring.

Pastoral Care

While Pastor Sarah is away visiting family for the holiday from November 22-25, Carol Sowle may be contacted at (317) 496-9732 or at casowle@gmail.com. After the 25th, Pastor Sarah may be reached at (386) 478 - 9012 or at pastorsarah@fcindy.org.

This Week at First Congregational

Thursday, November 22		HAPPY THANKSGIVING! Church Office Closed
Friday, November 23		Church Office Closed
Sunday, November 25	11:00 a.m.	Traditional Worship with guest preacher, Rev. John Heckman
Sunday, November 25	5:30 p.m.	New Creation Worship Service
Thursday, November 29	11:45 a.m.	Women's Lunch
Thursday, November 30	1:00 p.m.	Men's Lunch
Thursday, November 29	7:00 p.m.	Choir Rehearsal
Saturday, December 1	11:00 a.m.	Bell Rehearsal
Saturday, December 1	10:00 a.m.	Hanging of the Greens
Saturday, December 1	12:30 p.m.	Music Support Meeting
Sunday, December 2	9:45 a.m.	Sunday Adult Class
Sunday, December 2	11:00 a.m.	Traditional Worship
Sunday, December 2	5:30 p.m.	New Creation Worship Service

 [FirstCongregationalUCCIndy](#)

 [Forward](#)



FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

e-pistle for the week of November 29, 2018

Minister's Message

Dear First Congregational Family,

Recently I attended a workshop about how to be a church that is intentionally welcoming to guests who visit us for worship on Sunday. We learned that a majority of church going people don't invite their co-workers, friends and family to join them for worship. It made me think about our church. Do you invite others to come to church with you? I know some of you have and I thank you!

I believe Advent is a special time of year where people are looking for comfort, meaning, and community. I'd like to invite and challenge each of us to bring a guest (or two or three!) to church with you during this sacred season. We know that rituals of lighting the advent wreath, sacred music, and being together are important ways to create health and wellness. Through

these spiritual activities, we remind ourselves that we are not alone, that we are loved.

Bring a friend this Advent season. As we prepare to welcome the Christ child, let us also welcome new guests among us. They are waiting to be invited by you. Many people won't just show up on their own. They need your invitation. Help someone find hope this Advent season. Invite someone to come with you to church.

Blessings,
Pastor Sarah

Celebration of Life - Friday, November 30, 11:00a.m.

The service for Marilyn Hennegan will be this Friday, November 30th, at 11:00 AM. She and her husband Jim (who died in 2013) were long time devoted members of our church who enjoyed winters in Florida through their active retirement years. The last several years Marilyn has struggled with dementia and has not been able to come to church. Their daughter Kathy is also a member.



Here is a link to her

obituary: <https://www.legacy.com/obituaries/indystar/obituary.aspx?page=lifestory&pid=190765684>

Worship for the First Sunday of Advent

Adult Class - 9:45 a.m.

As we continue and conclude the study "Reclaiming Jesus: A Confession of Faith in a Time of

Crisis" during December, this Sunday we will discuss the topic: "Truth is Morally Central to Our Personal and Public Lives."

Traditional Service - 11:00 a.m.

Pastor Sarah will preach on

Scripture: Luke 21:25-38

Advent Wreath to be lit by Paul and Beth Terheide

Prayground - Beginning THIS Sunday!

Beginning December 2nd, the Christian body begins celebrating Advent--a time for us to prepare our hearts, our minds, and our spirits for the coming of the Christ child. At First Congregational Church UCC, one way that we are leaning into this concept of welcoming is by opening the Prayground. Located in the front right in the sanctuary, the Prayground offers children and families a space just for them and allows all to fully engage in meaningful worship. The Prayground will have soft foam mats along with liturgically and age appropriate worship materials. The Prayground will initially be installed as an experiment, and will be evaluated for permanency after an estimated six to twelve months. As time goes, we commit to asking for and listening to feedback from the congregation to best support everybody's faith development and worship experience, and to best welcome our children and families. With the full support of the Worship and Faith Board, the FCC Mental Health WISE Team, and the Church Council, the Prayground will be available for use beginning December 2nd. As we prepare our hearts to welcome the Christ child, let us prepare a dedicated space in our sanctuary that welcomes all children.

For feedback, questions, concerns, and/or comments, please talk to Lianna Campos (lcampos33@gmail.com, W&F Board Representative to Council) or Nancy Dickinson (dickinson.nls@gmail.com, Chair of W&F Board) or Pastor Sarah (pastorsarah@fcindy.org).

New Creation - 5:30 p.m.

Join us for a special worship service as we celebrate, give thanks and close New Creation with its final service on Sunday, December 2. This service will invite us to reflect on the powerful impact of New Creation over the years, give God thanks for the ways our lives have been touched by this special alternative worship service, and help us end this season well. The Worship and Faith Board asks you to hold those impacted in prayer during this season of change, as well as prayers for what new ways of alternative worship God is calling us to explore for 2019. Please contact Pastor Sarah with any questions.

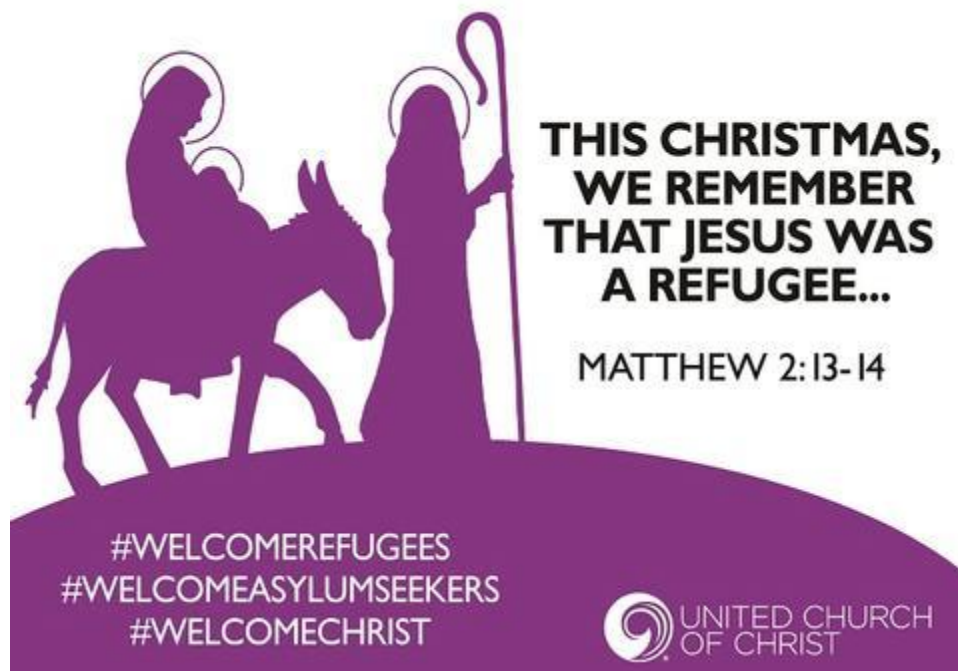
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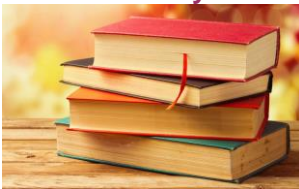


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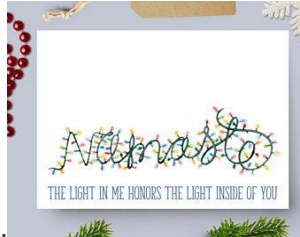


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Mental Health Team offers "Yoga for the Holidays"

You are invited to participate in Yoga for the Holidays with Shannon Abbott in the church parlor



on Monday, December 17, 6:00 – 7:00p.m.

- This practice will be a gentle practice of mindfulness and movement, and will also offer the option of modifications using a chair, so all are welcome to participate.
- Please wear loose, comfortable clothing, and bring a yoga mat if you have one (If you have an extra mat, please bring one to share with someone who may not have one.)

Please email Shannon at shannon@fcindy.org for more information and to register. A free-will, gratitude offering will be appreciated.

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Green Team Tip 

Your dishwasher uses a lot of energy when you let it dry your dishes. Deselect the heated dry cycle. When the dishwasher has finished, open it up to let the hot humid air put warmth and humidity into the house.

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This Week at First Congregational

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Sunday, December 2	5:30 p.m.	New Creation
Monday, December 3	9:30 a.m.	Church Women United Event
Monday, December 3	6:00 p.m.	Shine a Light Vigil

Tuesday, December 4	7:00 p.m.	Outreach & Service
Wednesday, December 5	7:00 p.m.	Trustees Meeting
Thursday, December 6	9:00 a.m.	Center for Congregations Event
Thursday, December 6	7:00 p.m.	Choir Rehearsal
Saturday, December 8	11:00 a.m.	Bell Rehearsal