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# FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Epistle for the Week of October 3, 2019

**Dear First Congregational,**

This Sunday, October 6, we will celebrate World Communion Sunday through song, prayer, and reflection about our family of God in the Bahamas. The recovery efforts continue and relief workers are focused on rebuilding and healing. This will be a long journey. We want to extend to our neighbors in the Bahamas our love and good wishes for their renewal.

During worship we will get a taste of the Bahamas through our special communion bread inspired by the Islands, through the sound of Island music, and we will take time to write “thinking of you” note cards to the people. Our United Church of Christ partner congregations in Florida have strong ties to churches in the Bahamas, and they will pass along our cards of encouragement and care.

It’s easy to become overwhelmed and discouraged in the face of such tragedy, loss, and heartbreak. Our words of kindness, mercy and compassion will remind our neighbors that

they are not forgotten.

Thank you for being a congregation that cares for God's world. We truly are one family.

Blessings,  
Pastor Sarah

## **Worship**

### **Adult Class - 9:45 a.m.**

Curious about what being a W.I.S.E. church might mean for FCC? Come to the Adult Education hours on Sundays October 6th and 13th from 9:45 to 10:45 a.m. in the Adult Library on 2nd floor. The team will discuss our newly created draft covenant, our commitment to mental health and potential plans. On Oct 3rd we will discuss W-welcoming and I-inclusive and on Oct 13th we will discuss S-supportive and E-engaging. We seek your input about our current work and our future, if we become a W.I.S.E. church. Hope to see you there!

### **Sunday Worship Service - 11:00 a.m. - World Communion Sunday**

This Sunday, October 6th, we will celebrate World Communion Sunday through song, prayer, and reflection about our family of God in the Bahamas. The recovery efforts continue and relief workers are focused on rebuilding and healing. This will be a long journey. We want to extend to our neighbors in the Bahamas our love and good wishes for their renewal.

During worship we will get a taste of the Bahamas through our special communion bread inspired by the Islands, through the sound of Island music, and we will take time to write "thinking of you" note cards to the people. Our United Church of Christ partner congregations in Florida have strong ties to churches in the Bahamas, and they will pass along our cards of encouragement and care.

It's easy to become overwhelmed and discouraged in the face of such tragedy, loss, and heartbreak. Our words of kindness, mercy and compassion will remind our neighbors that they are not forgotten.

Thank you for being a congregation that cares for God's world. We truly are one family.

Rev. Dr. Sarah Lund will preach on "Caring for the Bahamas."

Scripture: 1 John 3:16-18



### What's Happening at FC

(See October Colony for monthly announcements and further details.)

#### **TONIGHT! In Harmony: a community singing group, Thursday Sept 19, 6:30-7:30pm (Sanctuary)**

"In Harmony" is a non-auditioned, non-performing, intergenerational singing group for ALL voices. It will meet twice a month on Thursdays, from 6:30-7:30 pm, in the Mayflower Room. The dates are 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. For general questions, contact Wendy Baldwin or Bob Cook.

#### **TONIGHT! Choir Rehearsals**

The choir is back! Rehearsals are on Thursday nights from 7:00 to 8:30 PM. We welcome new members. If anyone is interested in joining the choir, please email Julie at [juliehouston@comcast.net](mailto:juliehouston@comcast.net). We would love to have you join us!

#### **CROP WALK is THIS Sunday October 6th!**

Registration starts at 1:00 PM on the grounds of the InnerChurch Center at 1100 W. 42nd St. and Michigan Rd. The WALK starts at 2:00. We will be joining other churches to help stop hunger ONE STEP AT A TIME. You can still donate at [www.crophunger/walk.org/Indianapolisin/](http://www.crophunger/walk.org/Indianapolisin/) / FCindy or make a check payable to CWS/CROP to put in the offering plate. Thank you. - Sally Coombs

#### **FCC Spiritual Explorers Labyrinth Walk, Sunday, October 13, 1:00 p.m.**

FCC's third 2019 labyrinth-walking experience is at **1 PM** on **October 13** at St. Luke's United Methodist Church, 100 W 86th St, Indianapolis, IN 46260. The labyrinth is

near Luke's Lodge, in St. Luke's NE corner of their back parking lot. Walk around the back of Luke's Lodge, down the steps and north into the neighborhood behind the church property. According to St. Luke's Spiritual Director, Betty Brandt, you can't miss it! (In case of rain, you might want to take an umbrella.) **After** we have all walked the labyrinth, we can go inside St. Luke's door #7, far North, turn left down hallway, 3rd door on the left, room 103-104, where we can discuss our experience as we sit on chairs and where we can bring in food and drinks if we want.

### **Chautauqua**

The Chautauqua Institution in NY is about a 6-1/2 hour drive from Indianapolis, or may be reached by a short flight and shuttle service through Pittsburgh or Buffalo. It's a gated, walled community filled with Victorian and early 1900's houses, a village green, a book store, an ice cream stand, hotels, boarding houses, restaurants, and everything you could wish for to indulge yourself in an uplifting weeklong experience that will enrich you religiously, spiritually, intellectually, physically and aesthetically (please select any/all that you desire).

It offers nine weekly programs each summer--check out CHQ.org for each week's themes, speakers, concerts, and so on in 2020..

Thanks to an anonymous donor, FCC is able to cover all expenses for one pilgrim a year--or one couple every other year. If you're interested, please fill out the application [here](#) and [email it](#) or give it to Shannon in the church office. Hurry, though, we'll stop accepting applications on or about October 15th.

### **FC's Got Talent**

Due to several schedule conflicts, FC's Got Talent has been postponed.

Thanks.

### **Green Team Tip**

Look over your cleaning products. Are they eco-friendly? (If you want to share a green habit, please send it to [hoot.gibson.tds@gmail.com](mailto:hoot.gibson.tds@gmail.com).)



### **Food Donations for the Northside Pantry**

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

### **October Mission of the Month: Neighbors In Need**

Our Neighbors in Need offering for October gives us as members of UCC the opportunity to have a greater outreach. As a new member of your outreach and services board that gives me joy. One third of UCC collection for NIN in October goes toward its work with our Native American sisters and brothers through its support of the Council of Native American Ministries (CAIM). Historically Founders of UCC worked with many different tribes and today there are 20 UCC congregations on reservations. We are not only connected through our baptism to the people in these communities but through a shared belief in the values we hold in communion as UCC members. These churches and their pastors are supported by CAIM, as are more than 1000 individuals from dozens of other tribes. Two thirds of the Collection in October goes to the support the Justice and Witness ministries of the church, not just here but throughout our nation. Working with a wide variety of justice issues, grants are available to assist local churches on their quest for justice in their given communities. These grants are given to help with concerns regarding things like the federal budget, voting rights, immigration, health care, hate crimes, civil liberties and environmental concerns. This year preference will be given for the support of our immigrant neighbors and communities. Please give generously as the need is great. Thank You. (source: [UCC.ORG](http://UCC.ORG))

**Pantry Items of the Month**

During October we are collecting the following items: pudding and Jello mix, rice and beans, canned soup, paper towels.

**Pastoral Care**

Pastor Sarah may be reached at (386) 478-9012 or at [pastorsarah@fcindy.org](mailto:pastorsarah@fcindy.org). While Pastor Sarah is on vacation from October 11-13, Pastor Carol can be reached at (317) 496-9732 or at [casowle@gmail.com](mailto:casowle@gmail.com).

**THIS WEEK AT FIRST CONGREGATIONAL**

<b>Thursday, October 3</b>	<b>1:00 p.m.</b>	<b>Men’s Lunch</b>
<b>Thursday, October 3</b>	<b>6:30 p.m.</b>	<b>In Harmony</b>
<b>Thursday, October 3</b>	<b>7:00 p.m.</b>	<b>Choir Rehearsal</b>
<b>Sunday, October 6</b>	<b>9:45 a.m.</b>	<b>Sunday Adult Class w/ WISE Mental Health Team</b>
<b>Sunday, October 6</b>	<b>11:00 a.m.</b>	<b>Worship – World Communion Sunday</b>
<b>Sunday, October 6</b>	<b>12:15 p.m.</b>	<b>Worship &amp; Faith</b>
<b>Sunday, October 6</b>	<b>1:00 p.m.</b>	<b>CROP Walk</b>
<b>Tuesday, October 8</b>	<b>1:00 p.m.</b>	<b>Worship Design</b>
<b>Wednesday, October 9</b>	<b>5:00 p.m.</b>	<b>Mental Health Team</b>

<b>Wednesday, October 9</b>	<b>7:00 p.m.</b>	<b>Church Council</b>
<b>Thursday, October 10</b>	<b>7:00 p.m.</b>	<b>Choir Rehearsal</b>
<b>Sunday, October 13</b>	<b>9:45 a.m.</b>	<b>Sunday Adult Class w/ WISE MH Team</b>
<b>Sunday, October 13</b>	<b>11:00 a.m.</b>	<b>Worship w/ Pastor Carol preaching</b>
<b>Sunday, October 13</b>	<b>1:00 p.m.</b>	<b>Labyrinth Walk @ St. Luke's UMC</b>

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# FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Epistle for the Week of October 10, 2019

**Dear First Congregational,**

This fall First Congregational is blessed to be in partnership with two student interns: Cassidy Hall, our Student Pastor and Grace Langford, our Just Peace Intern. Cassidy is a second year Master of Divinity Student at Christian Theological Seminary and will be serving with us until May 2020. Her areas of focus are adult education, social media, and spirituality. Cassidy is on a journey to explore ordination in the United Church of Christ. Next spring she will begin the formal process to become a Member in Discernment. Please pray that God will walk beside her on this journey of faith, growth, and discovery.

Grace is in her senior year at Butler University and will be with us through the first week of December, and the weeks are going by quickly. Her area of focus is in supporting our efforts to live into our Just Peace covenant. She will provide us insights based on the surveys we collected over the summer from Boards and Committees. She will also engage in “informational interviews” with members of the Just Peace team and others who are interested in giving her feedback and sharing ideas. Please be in touch with Grace if you’d



like to participate in this process by emailing her at [justpeaceintern@fcindy.org](mailto:justpeaceintern@fcindy.org). Grace will present her findings at a special buzz session on December 1, including her reflections, suggestions and ideas for how we might best move forward in our efforts to be a Just Peace Church. She will also be leading some of our adult education classes covering topics such as Bread for the World and sharing about her experience attending an Interfaith Conference at Princeton Seminary about the challenges of drone warfare in our world today. Please pray for Grace as she finishes up her undergraduate career and begins to discern her vocational calling upon graduation.

We are fortunate to be a “teaching congregation” that encourages people along their paths of learning. Thank you for your faithful support of Cassidy and Grace. May God bless us all with a spirit of discovery, growth, and joy for the journey.

Blessings,  
Pastor Sarah

## **Worship**

### **Adult Class - 9:45 a.m.**

Curious about what being a W.I.S.E. church might mean for First Congregational? Come to the Adult Education hour on Sunday October 13th from 9:45 to 10:45 a.m. in the Adult Library on 2nd floor where we will discuss what it means to be S - Supportive and E - Engaging. The team will discuss our newly created draft covenant, our commitment to mental health and potential plans as we seek your input about our current work and our future, if we become a W.I.S.E. church.

### **Sunday Worship Service - 11:00 a.m.**

Pastor Carol Sowle will preach on "Though You Maybe Have No Money."  
Scriptures: Luke 17:11-19

## **What's Happening at FC**

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

### **TONIGHT! Choir Rehearsals**

The choir is back! Rehearsals are on Thursday nights from 7:00 to 8:30 PM. We welcome new members. If anyone is interested in joining the choir, please email Julie at [juliehouston@comcast.net](mailto:juliehouston@comcast.net). We would love to have you join us!



**THIS SUNDAY! FCC Spiritual Explorers Labyrinth Walk, Sunday, October 13, 1:00 p.m.**

FCC's third 2019 labyrinth-walking experience is at **1 PM** on **October 13** at St. Luke's United Methodist Church, 100 W 86th St, Indianapolis, IN 46260. The labyrinth is near Luke's Lodge, in St. Luke's NE corner of their back parking lot. Walk around the back of Luke's Lodge, down the steps and north into the neighborhood behind the church property. According to St. Luke's Spiritual Director, Betty Brandt, you can't miss it! (In case of rain, you might want to take an umbrella.) **After** we have all walked the labyrinth, we can go inside St. Luke's door #7, far North, turn left down hallway, 3rd door on the left, room 103-104, where we can discuss our experience as we sit on chairs and where we can bring in food and drinks if we want. If you plan to be there, would you please email susanna-judith rae, [sjrae@iu.edu](mailto:sjrae@iu.edu), or Pastor Sarah, [pastorsarah@fcindy.org](mailto:pastorsarah@fcindy.org)

**Chautauqua**

The Chautauqua Institution in NY is about a 6-1/2 hour drive from Indianapolis, or may be reached by a short flight and shuttle service through Pittsburgh or Buffalo. It's a gated, walled community filled with Victorian and early 1900's houses, a village green, a book store, an ice cream stand, hotels, boarding houses, restaurants, and everything you could wish for to indulge yourself in an uplifting weeklong experience that will enrich you religiously, spiritually, intellectually, physically and aesthetically (please select any/all that you desire).

It offers nine weekly programs each summer--check out CHQ.org for each week's themes, speakers, concerts, and so on in 2020..

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**Friday Night at the Movies, October 18<sup>th</sup>, 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.

**October Buzz & Luncheon: W.I.S.E. Mental Health - Sunday, October 20<sup>th</sup>**

Join the Mental Health Team for a Luncheon and short Buzz after worship on Sunday October 20th. We will present the W.I.S.E. (Welcoming, Inclusive, Supportive, and Engaged) covenant (see below) the team has been working on and ask for your input. We

will also discuss how becoming a W.I.S.E. congregation might affect our church and its activities. Come join us for food, fellowship and discussion.

### **Green Team Tip**

What responsibility do we have for our children's adequate nutrition? Is not helping them development physically and mentally investing in the earth's future? (If you want to share a green habit, please send it to [hoot.gibson.tds@gmail.com](mailto:hoot.gibson.tds@gmail.com).)



### **Food Donations for the Northside Pantry**

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

### **October Mission of the Month: Neighbors In Need**

Neighbors in Need (NIN) is a special mission offering of the United Church of Christ that supports ministries of justice and compassion throughout the United States. One-third of NIN funds support the Council for American Indian Ministry (CAIM). Two-thirds of this offering is used by the UCC's Justice and Witness Ministries (JWM) to support a variety of justice initiatives. As we continue to hear about this administration's injustices at the southern border our JWM are giving special consideration to projects focusing on assisting our immigrant neighbors and communities. Grants are available to empower local churches to support these justice issues. Please give as generously as you can. Thank You. (source: [www.ucc.org](http://www.ucc.org))

### **Pantry Items of the Month**

During October we are collecting the following items: pudding and Jello mix, rice and beans, canned soup, paper towels.

### **Pastoral Care**

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

## **THIS WEEK AT FIRST CONGREGATIONAL**

<b>Thursday, October 10</b>	<b>7:00 p.m.</b>	Choir Rehearsal
<b>Sunday, October 13</b>	<b>9:45 a.m.</b>	Sunday Adult Class w/ WISE Mental Health Team
<b>Sunday, October 13</b>	<b>11:00 a.m.</b>	Worship w/ Pastor Carol Sowle preaching

<b>Sunday, October 13</b>	<b>1:00 p.m.</b>	Labyrinth Walk @ St. Luke's UMC
<b>Thursday, October 17</b>	<b>1:00 p.m.</b>	Men's Lunch
<b>Thursday, October 17</b>	<b>6:30 p.m.</b>	In Harmony
<b>Thursday, October 17</b>	<b>7:00 p.m.</b>	Choir Rehearsal
<b>Saturday, October 19</b>	<b>10:30 a.m.</b>	Bell Choir Rehearsal
<b>Saturday, October 19</b>	<b>1:00 p.m.</b>	IKC Borderland Trip Planning Meeting
<b>Sunday, October 20</b>	<b>9:45 a.m.</b>	Sunday Adult Class w/ Cassidy Hall
<b>Sunday, October 20</b>	<b>11:00 a.m.</b>	Worship
<b>Sunday, October 20</b>	<b>12:30 p.m.</b>	Buzz & Lunch: W.I.S.E. Mental Health Covenant

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# FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Epistle for the Week of October 17, 2019

**Dear First Congregational,**

Our mental health team is hard at work preparing the congregation to vote to become a WISE (Welcoming Inclusive Supportive Engaged) congregation at our January annual meeting. This Sunday we will discuss the draft WISE covenant at the Buzz session after church. Please join us for this important conversation. If you cannot be with us on Sunday please email your thoughts to me or the co-leaders of the WISE team Sandy Wood and Pat Larracey.

Thank you for being a community of faith that is open to growing and changing in response to the needs around us. This is what it means to Be The Church.

Blessings,  
Pastor Sarah

**Worship**

**Adult Class - 9:45 a.m.**

Student Pastor Cassidy Hall will be leading and will discuss more about her experience in the intersection of filmmaking and spirituality, including sharing some of her work.

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

Pastor Sarah will preach on "When Wrestling Leads to Blessing."

Scriptures: Genesis 32:22-31



**THIS SUNDAY!!! October Buzz & Pitch-In Luncheon: W.I.S.E. Mental Health Covenant, 12:30 p.m.**

Join the Mental Health Team for a pitch-in luncheon and short Buzz after worship on Sunday October 20th. We will present the W.I.S.E. (Welcoming, Inclusive, Supportive, and Engaged) covenant the team has been working on and ask for your input. We will also discuss how becoming a W.I.S.E. congregation might affect our church and its activities. Come join us for food, fellowship and discussion.



**What's Happening at FC**

(See October Colony for monthly announcements and further details.)

**!TECHNICAL DIFFICULTIES!**

Our Office Administrator's email is currently unable to send or receive emails. This began

right before she went on vacation, so any emails you have sent to her over the past 2 1/2 weeks have not been received. As we continue work to resolve this problem, Shannon has set up a temporary email: [shannonfcindy@gmail.com](mailto:shannonfcindy@gmail.com). Please use this email to send any announcements, committee minutes, or other administrative correspondence. If you have already sent announcements for the upcoming Colony, bulletins, or Epistles, we ask that you please resend them to this new, temporary email account. We will let you know when her other email is up and running again (hopefully soon). Thank you for your cooperation and patience.



Over the past couple of weeks, some much needed transformations have occurred in some of the rooms on the second floor of First Congregational. BIG THANKS to the hardworking team of FC members who moved furniture, painted, and coordinated the carpet installation in the church office, the library, and in Meagan's office (the tree room/former children's library). We are grateful for your service to our community!

### **TONIGHT! In Harmony: A Community Singing Group, 6:30 p.m. (Mayflower Room)**

"In Harmony" is a non-auditioned, non-performing, intergenerational singing group for ALL voices. It will meet twice a month on Thursdays, from 6:30-7:30 pm, in the Mayflower Room. The dates are 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. For general questions, contact Wendy Baldwin or Bob Cook.

### **TONIGHT! Choir Rehearsals, 7:00 p.m.**

The choir is back! Rehearsals are on Thursday nights from 7:00 to 8:30 PM. We welcome new members. If anyone is interested in joining the choir, please email Julie at [juliehouston@comcast.net](mailto:juliehouston@comcast.net). We would love to have you join us!

### **TOMORROW! Friday Night at the Movies, October 18<sup>th</sup>, 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.

### **Impromptu Outdoor Work Day, THIS SATURDAY, October 19th, 9AM-Noon**

Please join us from 9:00-ish until Noon-is this Saturday as we spruce up the outdoor

grounds of FC. Contact Wendy Baldwin at (317) 319-0806 for more details.

### **Green Team Tip**

Are the earth's resources ours to take and use just for fun and for profit? What responsibility do we have for future generations? (If you want to share a green habit, please send it to [hoot.gibson.tds@gmail.com](mailto:hoot.gibson.tds@gmail.com).)



### **Food Donations for the Northside Pantry**

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

### **October Mission of the Month: Neighbors In Need**

Neighbors in Need (NIN) is a special mission offering of the United Church of Christ that supports ministries of justice and compassion throughout the United States. One-third of NIN funds support the Council for American Indian Ministry (CAIM). Two-thirds of this offering is used by the UCC's Justice and Witness Ministries (JWM) to support a variety of justice initiatives. As we continue to hear about this administration's injustices at the southern border our JWM are giving special consideration to projects focusing on assisting our immigrant neighbors and communities. Grants are available to empower local churches to support these justice issues. Please give as generously as you can. Thank You. (source: [www.ucc.org](http://www.ucc.org))

### **Pantry Items of the Month**

During October we are collecting the following items: pudding and Jello mix, rice and beans, canned soup, paper towels.

### **Pastoral Care**

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

While Pastor Sarah is participating in continuing education at the Princeton Seminary Iron Sharpens Iron Conference from October 20<sup>th</sup> – 24<sup>th</sup>, Pastor Carol may be reached at (317) 496-9732 or at [casowle@gmail.com](mailto:casowle@gmail.com).

## **THIS WEEK AT FIRST CONGREGATIONAL**

**Thursday, October 17**

**1:00 p.m.**

**Men's Lunch**

**Thursday, October 17**

**6:30 p.m.**

**In Harmony**



<b>Thursday, October 17</b>	<b>7:00 p.m.</b>	<b>Choir Rehearsal</b>
<b>Thursday, October 17</b>	<b>9:00 a.m.</b>	<b>FC Outdoor Work Day</b>
<b>Saturday, October 19</b>	<b>10:30 a.m.</b>	<b>Bell Choir Rehearsal</b>
<b>Saturday, October 19</b>	<b>1:00 p.m.</b>	<b>IKC Borderland Trip Planning Meeting</b>
<b>Sunday, October 20</b>	<b>9:45 a.m.</b>	<b>Sunday Adult Class w/ Student Pastor, Cassidy Hall</b>
<b>Sunday, October 20</b>	<b>11:00 a.m.</b>	<b>Worship</b>
<b>Sunday, October 20</b>	<b>12:30 p.m.</b>	<b>Buzz Luncheon: W.I.S.E. Mental Health Covenant</b>
<b>Wednesday, October 23</b>	<b>6:30 p.m.</b>	<b>Calling Circle</b>
<b>Thursday, October 24</b>	<b>11:45 a.m.</b>	<b>Women's Lunch</b>
<b>Thursday, October 24</b>	<b>7:00 p.m.</b>	<b>Choir Rehearsal</b>
<b>Saturday, October 26</b>	<b>10:30 a.m.</b>	<b>Bell Choir</b>
<b>Sunday, October 27</b>	<b>9:45 a.m.</b>	<b>Sunday Adult Class w/ Cassidy Hall</b>
<b>Sunday, October 27</b>	<b>11:00 a.m.</b>	<b>Worship</b>

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# FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Epistle for the Week of October 24, 2019

**Dear First Congregational,**

*“There is a language of all you’ve created. Hear me, please. I just want to be still enough to hear. Right here, Lord: I want to be.”*

These words come from the closing lines of the poem “Prayer to be Still and Know” by Nickole Brown.

One of the gifts of my time at Princeton with the “Iron Sharpening Iron” project is the reflection that we are all created as “human becomings.” We are ever growing, ever changing, ever becoming. The gift of a life of faith is the spiritual practice to be-come. To be present to the moment. To be open for all that God wishes to create inside of us, through us, and with us. In this way, we are co-becomers, co-creators, with God.

I am grateful for First Congregational and the way we create space for each of us to become part of the Body of Christ, one family of God.

Blessings,  
Pastor Sarah

## Worship

### Adult Class - 9:45 a.m.

Student Pastor Cassidy Hall will be leading and will continue to explore more on the topics of Black Theology and Womanist Theology, including some readings.

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

Pastor Sarah will be preaching and teaching this Sunday with St. Peter UCC in Lamar, IN. Last year we welcomed Rev. Chip to preach for our Just Peace Sunday, so now Pastor Sarah is with Rev. Chip's church for their Mission Festival about Mental Health.

This Sunday, we welcome Rev. Nathan Day Wilson as our guest preacher. He is an ordained minister in the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). Currently he is director of communications at Christian Theological Seminary, coordinator of the Faith & Values section of The Indianapolis Star, assistant coach of a high school basketball team, and personal trainer for body and brain fitness. You're invited to follow him on Twitter: @nathandaywilson

Rev. Nathan Day Wilson will preach on "When God Disappoints."  
Scripture: Genesis 4:3-9



## What's Happening at FC

(See October Colony for monthly announcements and further details.)

### Technical Difficulties Resolved!

We are happy to report that our Office Administrator's email is back up and running! You may once again email her at shannon@fcindy.org.

### **Pardon Our Mess: An Update on Construction at FC**

Over this past weekend we discovered water leaking from the second floor through the walls and ceilings by the north stairwell. We have fixed the problem of the leak and dried the wet areas. **The north stairwell is reopened for use.** Please pardon the hole in the ceiling, and expect additional upcoming renovations and repairs as we fix the damaged areas.

### **TONIGHT! Choir Rehearsals, 7:00 p.m.**

Rehearsals are on Thursday nights from 7:00 to 8:30 PM. We welcome new members. If anyone is interested in joining the choir, please email Julie at [juliehouston@comcast.net](mailto:juliehouston@comcast.net). We would love to have you join us!

### **Council Resolution on Inclusive Language in Worship**

The Council recently passed the following resolution:

*"First Congregational UCC shall encourage inclusive language in worship whenever appropriate."*

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For example,

- "God" and "God's" will be used instead of "He," "Him," and "His."
- "Loving Parent," "Sacred Presence," or "Divine Creator" instead of "Father"
- "Lord" may just disappear

This is not an exhaustive list, but a place to start. If you have comments or suggestions, we'd love to hear from you!

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



### Food Donations for the Northside Pantry

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

### October Mission of the Month: Neighbors In Need

Neighbors in Need (NIN) is a special mission offering of the United Church of Christ that supports ministries of justice and compassion throughout the United States. One-third of NIN funds support the Council for American Indian Ministry (CAIM). Two-thirds of this offering is used by the UCC's Justice and Witness Ministries (JWM) to support a variety of justice initiatives. As we continue to hear about this administration's injustices at the southern border our JWM are giving special consideration to projects focusing on assisting our immigrant neighbors and communities. Grants are available to empower local churches to support these justice issues. Please give as generously as you can. Thank You. (source: [www.ucc.org](http://www.ucc.org))

### Pantry Items of the Month

During October we are collecting the following items: pudding and Jello mix, rice and beans, canned soup, paper towels.

### Pastoral Care

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

### THIS WEEK AT FIRST CONGREGATIONAL

Thursday, October 24	11:45 a.m.	Women's Lunch
Thursday, October 24	7:00 p.m.	Choir Rehearsal
Saturday, October 26	10:30 a.m.	Bell Choir Rehearsal
Sunday, October 27	9:45 a.m.	Sunday Adult Class w/ Cassidy Hall
Sunday, October 27	11:00 a.m.	Worship w/ guest preacher, Rev. Nathan Day Wilson

<b>Wednesday, October 30</b>	<b>10:00 a.m.</b>	<b>Care &amp; Connections</b>
<b>Wednesday, October 30</b>	<b>5:00 p.m.</b>	<b>Completing the Circle Meeting</b>
<b>Wednesday, October 30</b>	<b>6:30 p.m.</b>	<b>Calling Circle</b>
<b>Thursday, October 31</b>	<b>1:00 p.m.</b>	<b>Men's Lunch</b>
<b>Thursday, October 31</b>	<b>7:00 p.m.</b>	<b>Choir Rehearsal</b>
<b>Saturday, November 2</b>	<b>10:30 a.m.</b>	<b>Bell Choir Rehearsal</b>
<b>Sunday, November 3</b>	<b>9:45 a.m.</b>	<b>Sunday Adult Class w/ Rich Gibson</b>
<b>Sunday, November 3</b>	<b>11:00 a.m.</b>	<b>Worship</b>

 [FirstCongregationalUCCIndy](#)

 [Forward](#)



# FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Epistle for the Week of October 31, 2019



**Dear First Congregational,**

On Sunday, October 27, I joined Pastor Chip Jahn at St. Peter UCC in Lamar, Indiana, for their Missionfest lifting up mental health ministry. It was a joyful time together celebrating the outreach ministries of the congregation and listening together to the ways that mental health ministry can be included in their efforts to care for each other and the community. I



met the young man (now a high school senior) who as a young boy on a mission trip to Chicago for the first time saw a person living on the streets and upon returning to church Sunday morning announced that the church needed to end homelessness. Today he plans to go to medical school and after my sermon he shared he wants to be a neuro scientist to help treat mental health challenges. The youth of the church are a small but mighty group of visionary leaders.

I bring you warm greetings from our sister church and celebrate the power of our collective witness to justice and peace in the world. As you know, Chip is a national leader in the UCC Just Peace movement. It's exciting to think about how mental health justice can be part of the Just Peace movement. I invite you to dream, to wonder, and to explore this with me.



This weekend several of us are traveling to the UCC Mental Health Network WISE (Welcoming, Inclusive, Supportive, and Engaged) for mental health training at Church of the Beatitudes in Phoenix, Arizona. Thanks to a generous grant from the Indiana-Kentucky Conference, we will have a rich time of learning together including a Mental Health First-Aid training on Friday, and then the WISE workshops on Saturday. I will attend the UCC Mental Health Network Annual Board meeting on Friday, giving the keynote for the Saturday WISE Conference, and guest preaching at Sun City United Church of Christ on Sunday. This is such important and exciting work we are doing together. I remain deeply thankful to First Congregational for being partners with me on the journey.

I count it a great blessing of joy to serve as your pastor. I look forward to being with you all on Sunday, November 10<sup>th</sup> when we will be welcoming new members to the congregation.

Blessings,  
Pastor Sarah

## Worship

**Daylight Savings Time Ends THIS SUNDAY! Set your clocks back 1 hour before you go to bed Saturday night!**

### **Adult Class - 9:45 a.m.**

Rich Gibson will lead a discussion on "Plymouth's Pilgrims: Their Church, Their World; and Ours." Copies of the discussion guide will be made available for attendees. Come with an open mind to learn more about our Congregational ancestors.

### **All Saints Sunday Worship Service - 11:00 a.m.**

Rev. Worth Hartman will preach on "Called to Be Saints."

Scriptures: Philippians 1:1-11 & Matthew 5:1-16

In our worship service this Sunday we will celebrate All Saints/All Souls Day. These are occasions in the church year to honor and remember the saints of the church and loved ones who have died. We affirm models and examples of faith who have inspired us and we remember loved ones whose earthly life is over but who live on in God's eternal care and in our hearts and memories.

So to aide in our worship, we are asking worshipers to bring objects that symbolize your favorite saint or loved ones. This could be a photo, a favorite object, a personal item, a gift, a painting, anything that recalls this important person in your life. We will place some tables in the front of the sanctuary where you can place your items before worship. We look forward to your participation in Sunday's worship.

- Rev. Worth Hartman

### **Council Resolution on Inclusive Language in Worship**

The Council recently passed the following resolution:

*"First Congregational UCC shall encourage inclusive language in worship whenever appropriate."*

We came to this decision with some measure of enthusiasm: God is Spirit, and those that worship God must do so in spirit and in faith...which means, as Spirit, God has no gender. To refer to God as He/Him/His inherently limits our conception of God. To remove gender from our conception of God is not "politically correct," but spiritually correct. This improvement to our conception of God cannot be complete in one fell swoop; old

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This is not an exhaustive list, but a place to start. If you have comments or suggestions, we'd love to hear from you!



## What's Happening at FC

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

### Out of Office TODAY & TOMORROW (10/31-11/1)

I will be away from the church office for the next two days, participating in Mental Health First Aid Training and the UCC WISE Mental Health Network Conference with Pastor Sarah over the weekend in Phoenix, AZ. - Shannon Abbott, FC Office Administrator

### NO Choir Rehearsal TONIGHT!

This is no trick. Take the night off to enjoy the treats on this All Hallows Eve. Rehearsals will resume next Thursday from 7:00 to 8:30 PM. We welcome new members. If anyone is interested in joining the choir, please email Julie at [juliehouston@comcast.net](mailto:juliehouston@comcast.net). We would

love to have you join us!

### **Games, Pizza, and Fun**

Friends, guests, members and all others are invited to a game and pizza night in the parlor beginning at **5:30 on Saturday, Nov. 9**. Come any time and join the fun. We will order pizza and plan to eat around 6:45 pm. Please bring your own beverage. All ages are included. We will have games on hand or bring your favorite.

### **BUZZ w/ Pitch-In: Faith in Indiana, Sunday, Nov. 10, 12:30 p.m.**

We will hear a presentation from Faith In Indiana which acts as a catalyst for marginalized people and faith organizations to address and take action regarding racial and economic equity. How can First Congregational support this statewide initiative? When considering what food to take to Nov 10<sup>th</sup> Buzz's pitch-in, you might want to take something other than a dessert! susanna-judith rae is providing lots of birthday cake—chocolate sheet cake, white sheet cake, and a layered carrot cake—to celebrate the 80<sup>th</sup> birthday of her husband Earl Hoppert.

### **"We Are Not Alone" Breakfast**

#### **Date:**

November 12, 2018  
9:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.

#### **Goal:**

To raise money for and awareness of Circle City Clubhouse

#### **Location:**

St. Luke's United Methodist Church  
100 W. 86th St.  
Indianapolis, IN 46260

#### **Reservations:**

Eventbrite: [We Are Not Alone](#)  
Email: [meetme@centralindianaclubhouse.org](mailto:meetme@centralindianaclubhouse.org)

**Hoosier Village Alternative Gift Event: Sunday, November 17 from 1:30-4:00 p.m. in**

### **the Chapel**

Do you struggle to find meaningful Christmas gifts for your family and friends? Do you dread receiving more “stuff” for Christmas? This event is an alternative to the commercialization of Christmas. You and your family members will have the opportunity to make donations in a loved one’s name to one or more not-for-profit agencies that provide a variety of needed services in Marion and Boone counties. If you are unable to attend, you may pick up order forms in our narthex for absentee participation. Questions? Contact Sue Chapman, chair of Outreach & Service Board.

### **Green Team Tip**

Before you vote, look at the climate change viewpoint of your candidates. (If you want to share a green habit, please send it to [hoot.gibson.tds@gmail.com](mailto:hoot.gibson.tds@gmail.com).)



### **Food Donations for the Northside Pantry**

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

### **November Mission of the Month: Family Promise**

This month our Mission of the Month is Family Promise of Greater Indianapolis, the organization that serves families in crisis by providing short term housing while helping them to find permanent housing and providing skills that will help clients keep jobs and manage finances. FCC has been affiliated with Family Promise, formerly known as Interfaith Hospitality Network, for over 25 years. As our congregation’s make-up and size have changed in recent years, the Council has approved a recommendation from Outreach & Service for us to discontinue hosting families at our church but to continue as a “supporting congregation.” This means providing monetary support, taking part in the clothing drives, providing school clothing for the children in the After Care program through our “Underneath It All” drives, and providing Christmas gifts from the gift cards on our “Giving Tree.” Our monetary support helps with maintaining the day center and services for clients, including providing bus passes and gas cards. Since we are no longer hosting, our monetary support is even more important now. Please give generously to support the important service Family Promise provides to homeless families in our city.

### **Pantry Items of the Month**

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

quick oats, and tooth paste.

### Pastoral Care

While Pastor Sarah is serving the wider church at the UCC WISE Conference in Phoenix, AZ, November 1 - 3, Rev. Worth Hartman may be reached at [whartman@westminstervillage.com](mailto:whartman@westminstervillage.com) or (317) 417-0806.

Pastor Sarah will be back in the office next week and may be reached at (386) 478-9012 or at [pastorsarah@fcindy.org](mailto:pastorsarah@fcindy.org).

#### THIS WEEK AT FIRST CONGREGATIONAL

Thursday, October 31	1:00 p.m.	Men's Lunch
Thursday, October 31		NO Choir Rehearsal Tonight!
Saturday, November 2	10:30 a.m.	Bell Choir
Sunday, November 3	9:45 a.m.	Sunday Adult Class w/ Rich Gibson
Sunday, November 3	11:00 a.m.	All Saints Sunday Worship w/ Rev. Worth Hartman
Wednesday, November 6	11:00 a.m.	Witness & Welcome
Wednesday, November 6	7:00 p.m.	Trustees
Thursday, November 7	6:30 p.m.	In Harmony
Thursday, November 7	7:00 p.m.	Choir Rehearsal
Saturday, November 9	5:30 p.m.	Game Night
Sunday, November 10	9:45 a.m.	Sunday Adult Class w/ Grace Langford
Sunday, November 10	11:00 a.m.	Worship