



FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

E-Pistle for the week of September 6th

[Calendar](#)

Minister's Message

Dear First Congregational Church Family,

When I think of our church, I think of a place where we can find authentic belonging, share our journeys, and grow in God's love. One special event coming up to experience belonging, share our stories, and grow in God's love is this Saturday's all church picnic from 4-7pm. Yes, there will be good food, fun, fellowship and faith.

It's a simple thing: coming together, sharing a meal, telling stories, singing songs. And it's deeply spiritual. It's how God weaves us together as beloved community. It's how we care and connect.

For those who cannot join us this Saturday in person for the picnic, please hold us in your prayers. Pray that God would bless our time together with an authentic sense of belonging and being loved.

I'm looking forward to our special time together!

Blessings,
Pastor Sarah

Worship for Sunday

Adult Class

September 9: Rev. Worth Hartman will be leading a discussion on the article/statement, "Reclaiming Jesus" (copies available in the Narthex).

Traditional Service - 11:00 a.m.

Pastor Sarah will preach on "Let It Be Justice."

Scripture: James 2:1-10, 14-17

New Creation - 5:30 p.m.

With the ending of summer and the coming of fall, we see the daylight begin to shorten and fade. But God's Radiant Light remains strong and steady in our lives. Over the next several weeks in New Creation worship we'll be celebrating that Light from a variety of perspectives. Labor Day may have come and gone, but summer fun shouldn't have to come to an end. So this Sunday our celebration of God's Light will include time outdoors with prisms, bubbles, and other resources to help us "see" the light! Come join in the fun as we worship our one true Source of Light.

Who is My Neighbor?

A United Church of Christ sanctuary church offering immigrants refuge in the Arizona borderlands will soon be offering a place of hospitality, support and hope on the Mexican side of the border for people who find themselves deported from the United States. The Shadow Rock UCC Sanctuary Action Team and the Rev. Ken Heintzelman, in an extension of the spirit and intent of their ministry of sanctuary in Phoenix, are in the process of establishing Hope Station Nogales, in Sonora, Mexico.

The thought is Hope Station, which was funded in part by a \$10,000 grant from Neighbors in Need, can be a place of transition, a place where people who are deported but have family in the U.S. can find a meal, safe lodging and assistance. [Read more via UC News.](#)

What's Happening at FCC

Church Picnic & Sing-Along

THIS SATURDAY, September 8th, 4-7 p.m.

Kick off the fall at FCC with fun, faith, food, friends, and even a singalong! Weather-permitting, we will be outdoors on the FCC playground; otherwise, we will be in the Mayflower Room. The church will provide fried & baked chicken, supplemented by your pitch-in contributions. Please come to enjoy fellowship and activities, even if you did not sign up. Questions? Contact Wendy Baldwin.

God Speaks Through Music

Please plan to be present for the opportunity this Sunday, September 9, to hear God speak to us through music. The choir returns to the loft this week, and Sean Baker has prepared another of his signature arrangements for choir, flute, viola, bells, percussion, piano, and organ to infuse the service with another level of spiritual energy. Bring a friend!

September Buzz about Just Peace is on September 16th!

Please join us for a pitch in lunch and discussion starting at 12:15 p.m. with our guest preacher, Rev. Michael Neuroth from the UCC's Justice and Witness Ministries office in Washington DC. This is an excellent opportunity to delve further into the meaning of being a "Just Peace" church. For more information, please see the September colony.

Choir Rehearsals - New Members Are Welcome!

Choir rehearsals are on Thursdays from 7:00- 8:30 p.m. in the second floor choir room. We welcome new members to join us. Anyone who is interested in learning more about the choir may email choir director Julie Houston at: juliehouston@comcast.net

GOD Logo

We have been enjoying increasing the exposure of our "GOD" logo design - from t-shirts and bumper stickers to the street sign, the bulletin, the website, and now the e-pistle! We have heard many positive comments from members and visitors - it is very eye catching, memorable, and meaningful. Moving forward, there is a motion coming soon to the council to adopt this as the official logo for the church - so we can simplify and build consistency across all our communications - such as this epistle, the colony, letterhead, envelopes, etc. This would replace all of the orange 'fcc' logo materials we have been using. We invite any comments or questions about this - please contact Pastor Saraha, Bob Cook (chair of Witness & Welcome) or Karen Walker (chair of council) and they will be sure all of the board members and the council members hear all your thoughts and consider them as the motion comes forward. This comment period will be open for two weeks - until September 23rd. For a reminder of the origin of the logo, here is a link to the video shared at a buzz earlier this year: <http://fcindy.org/our-street-sign/>

Chautauqua Update

We're accepting applications through September 30th. That is, we hope to! As of Sep 6, we haven't

received a single one! If you have the slightest desire to get a free trip to Chautauqua next summer, why don't you fill out an application and give it to Shannon? As of now, you have ZERO competition! Please check the bulletin board or contact Rich Gibson, Nancy Dickinson, Worth Hartman, Chuck Kiphart, or Pastor Sarah if you have any questions.

IKC Church Vitality Events

The Indiana-Kentucky Conference gladly presents our final **two** Church Vitality events connected to our Brown Grant. We are blessed to have national staff member, the Rev. Dr. Chris Davies sharing at both events. Chris will engage congregations on issues related to congregational vitality from the "Be the Church" Assessment booklet including:

- *Congregational Asset Assessment
- *Equipping Congregational Leadership
- *Assessing New Ministries
- *Collecting Community Data for Mission

- Saturday, September 22, 1:00 - 5:00 p.m. (Central Time Zone) at St. Peter's UCC, 7014 Darmstadt Rd., Evansville, IN 47710
- Saturday, October 6, 1:00 - 5:00 p.m. (Eastern Time Zone) at St. Peter's UCC, 915 N Ironwood Dr., South Bend, IN 46615

To Register:

Email the following to ikc@ikcucc.org

- Date Attending
- Church Name and Location (for example: First UCC, City and State)
- Number of Persons Attending

**For more information or if you have questions, please reach out to Conference Minister, Rev. Chad Abbott at c.abbott@ikcucc.org

New Member Sunday!

Make First Congregational UCC your new church home and join with others on Sunday, October 28th during the 11am worship service. Pastor Sarah is looking forward to hearing about your faith journey and welcoming you into this church family. Contact Pastor Sarah to schedule a conversation about membership pastorsarah@fcindy.org.

Pastoral Transition Team

As Pastor Sarah continues to serve the congregation in her first six months, the church has a Transition Team to offer guidance, support and to ensure open and transparent communication between the pastor and the congregation. The members of this team are Randy Walker, Liana

Campos, Jim Rutherford and Nancy Dickinson. Please feel free to be in touch with the Transition Team with any feedback, concerns, or comments that you wish to be addressed during this important time of transition and new beginnings.

Church Social Media/Website/Design Team Update

We are blessed by a talented team of volunteers who help with church social media (Facebook, Instagram, Twitter), Website and design. Team members include Sean Baker, Angela Edwards, Josh Cody, and Pastor Sarah. Pastor Sarah leads this team and is the primary contact for members wishing to share church information on social media and the website. Thank you for helping to spread the good news about the mission and ministry of the church through the website and social media. These are popular platforms for people to first learn about our church and where most of our visitors find information about us. We want to hear from you, so please contact Pastor Sarah with your social media and website updates.

Green Team Tip

Save energy! A recent study showed that washing your hands in cold water is just as sanitary as with hot.

September Mission of the Month is the UCC Mental Health Network.

The United Church of Christ Mental Health Network works to reduce stigma and promote the inclusion of people with mental illnesses/brain disorders and their families in the life, leadership and work of congregations. Its stated values are

- Jesus has shown us the way to embrace those who are marginalized by society and advocate with and for them.
- Every person has value and worth and deserves love, dignity and respect.
- All people, regardless of mental health or disability status, have something to contribute to the life, leadership and work of their congregations.
- Community matters. A sense of belonging is important to us all, whether we face mental health challenges ourselves or not.
- True compassion in ministry and relationships is based on equality.

The Network also helps churches such as FCC that are considering becoming a W.I.S.E. Church (Welcoming, Inclusive, Supportive, Engaged) by providing resources and support to reach that goal and to do so by embodying the love of Jesus in the process. During the month of September your loose dollar bills in the offering plate or larger amounts in the Mission Offering envelopes marked “Mental Health Network” or checks with that notation will go to support its work.

Pantry Items of the Month

During September we are collecting the following items: soups, beans, rice, mac'n'cheese, paper towels, and body wash.

Pastoral Care

Please contact Pastor Sarah at (386) 478 - 9012 or at pastorsarah@fcindy.org.

This Week at First Congregational

Sunday, September 9	5:30 p.m.	New Creation
Wednesday, September 12	6:30 p.m.	Church Council Meeting
Wednesday, September 12	7:30 p.m.	New Creation Planning Team
Thursday, September 13	7:00 p.m.	Choir Rehearsal
Sunday, September 16	9:45 a.m.	Sunday Adult Class with guest, Rev. Michael Neuroth
Sunday, September 16	11:00 a.m.	Traditional Service with guest preacher, Rev. Michael Neuroth
Sunday, September 16	12:15 p.m.	Just Peace Buzz and pitch-in with guest Rev. Michael Neuroth
Sunday, September 16	5:30 p.m.	New Creation

 [FirstCongregationalUCCIndy](#)

 [Forward](#)



FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

e-pistle for the Week of September 13, 2018

Minister's Message

Dear First Congregational Church Family,

On Sunday, I will be preaching as we celebrate Just Peace Sunday with our focus on the wisdom of the prophets. Our guest Rev. Michael Neuroth will be joining us another time due to the hazards of travel with the forecasted hurricane hitting the mid-Atlantic region. Let's keep all who are in the path of the storm in our prayers.

This Sunday also begins our hosting week for guests with Family Promise. It takes about 60 people to fulfill all of the roles of this important ministry of the church. We still have volunteer openings and invite you to help out. We need afternoon van drivers, overnight hosts for Thursday, Friday and Saturday and also evening coordinators. Please be in touch with our co-coordinators Ann Leatherman (plantmom45@aol.com) and

Katie Booth (katie@takeflight.org) to sign-up to help.

Providing a safe environment for families who are experiencing personal crisis is the work of God. May God bless our church's ministry as we seek to be the hands and feet of Christ, welcoming the stranger and offering extravagant hospitality! Providing a safe environment for families is the work of God.

Blessings,
Pastor Sarah

God is Still Speaking....in the Magnificent Rays of Light Brian Schmidt captured this moment in the heavens that reflects the majesty of God's creation.



Worship for Sunday

Adult Class - 9:45 a.m.

TBD

Traditional Service - 11:00 a.m.

Pastor Sarah will preach on "Wisdom Cries Out!"

Scripture: Mark 8:27-38

New Creation - 5:30 p.m.

New Creation is moving – but not very far. This Sunday we begin a series of worship services in our sanctuary as we continue our focus on God's Radiant Light. Among the most beloved features of FCC's sanctuary are the numerous large clear windows which allow us to bask in God's

sunlight whenever it's available, so this seems like the perfect time for New Creation worshippers to enjoy and experience that feature. As Fall progresses we'll also experience the fading of the light in the late afternoons, and we'll thank God for those times as well. This Sunday we open ourselves to the healing light of God through guided meditation and Taize music. Please join us in this time of gratitude and healing.

Pastoral Care & Worship

Rev. Worth Hartman will be providing pastoral care to the congregation while Pastor Sarah's away serving the wider church as a mentor to young pastors in the Bethany Fellows Project (<http://bethanyfellows.org/>) in San Antonio, TX and for a family wedding in Duluth, MN from Monday, September 17-Sunday, September 23.

Rev. Worth Hartman will be leading worship with members of the Just Peace team on Sunday, September 23 at the 11:00am Traditional Service.

A Just Peace Call to Address Root Causes of Immigration

-written by Michael Neuroth

September 16th, many United Church of Christ congregations will mark "Just Peace" Sunday under the theme "Wisdom Cries Out!" The theme is based on the lectionary passage for that Sunday, Proverbs 1:20-33, which begins:

*Wisdom cries out in the street;
in the squares she raises her voice.
At the busiest corner she cries out;
at the entrance of the city gates she speaks...*

This image of the Spirit crying out for justice at the city gates offers a call to action at a time when images of children tragically being separated from families at the border remain etched in our minds and hearts. Our Just Peace identity as a church challenges us to work for justice in a holistic way, and so we must address immigration not only at our border, but also examine the broader systemic push factors that impact our neighbors in Central America.

Family Separation

In May, the Department of Justice issued a new immigration policy that

featured the separation of parents and children at the border to serve as a deterrent to those fleeing violence. This was a change from previous immigration practices which have generally allowed families to stay together while people move through the immigration process. This resulted in the separation of more than two thousand children from their families, stoking outrage across the country and world. Although President Trump signed an executive order on June 20th formally ending family separation, the “zero tolerance” approach continues.

The United Church of Christ was one of many communities that spoke out critically of this policy. Our leadership issued a pastoral letter, critiquing the “*criminalization of the quest for freedom, and the caging of those whose only crime is to seek shelter from harm.*” Through our General Synod resolutions UCC has designated itself an Immigrant Welcoming Denomination and has advocated for just and compassionate immigration reform that reflects our view of the worth and dignity of immigrants. Additionally, as a Just Peace Church, and a denomination that maintains partnerships across Central America, our approach to these issues is not limited to seeing them as immigration concerns alone. Rather, we also understand that the intersecting issues of violence, inequality, corruption, and trauma that are the root causes of the current immigration push, are the result of many dynamics including U.S. foreign policy in the region.

The largest percentage of those seeking asylum at the boarder are from the “Northern Triangle” countries of El Salvador, Guatemala, and Honduras. These three countries consistently rank among the most violent countries in the world, and the violence experienced there is the result of the influence of drug trafficking, gangs, and political instability, among other factors. High rates of gender based violence and persecution of LGBTQ communities are particularly alarming. The trauma and violence experience by many, and in some cases the inability to meet certain basic human needs, are major push factors for those seeking asylum in the U.S. The United Church of Christ has spoken to these issues in various ways, including a 2013 resolution on Honduras, and continued accompaniment efforts from local churches and Global Ministries.

Yet, we also know we can do more.

As Christians, we are called to love our neighbors. As members of a Just

Peace denomination, we are called to welcome the strangers in our land. As part of that welcome, we are also called to address the sources of violence from which these neighbors are fleeing. U.S. foreign policy has been partly responsible for this. Too often, our approach has been over-militarized and self-serving, failing to prioritize international law and protect human rights in these nations. Although it is difficult to find ways to address these issues, one piece of legislation, the Central America Family Protection and Reunification Act (CAFPRO) will help. This bill would prohibit family separation while also calling on the State Department and embassies to report on and address the issues of gender based and gang violence in Northern Triangle countries that drives many to flee in search of safety.

As a denomination, we are already active in many ways. This week, the Southwest Conference with Justice and Witness Ministries is gathering over 100 UCC advocates for a "Faithful Witness **at/for** the Border" to draw attention to these concerns. Over the past couple years, many of our churches have declared themselves sanctuary congregations. In D.C., we advocate for comprehensive immigration reform, and passage of legislation like CAFPRO that would reshape U.S. policy in Central America to address the root causes of violence. And on September 16th, UCC congregations will mark Just Peace Sunday, by praying and following the Spirit of Wisdom in into our public squares and to our city gates, committing themselves to work for immigration policies that reflect our values as a church committed to building peace with justice.

What's Happening at FCC

Family Promise Week – September 16 – 22

The children are coming, the children are coming! We have eight kids currently experiencing homelessness that are bringing their parents with them to stay in our church this coming week. Come play with them. Come offer them the extravagant welcome that we want to offer all of God's children. Volunteer opportunities abound to provide a safe and

loving place for the families we are hosting. September 16-23. Ann Leatherman and Katie Booth are happy to help you find your niche.

Presentation on Hate Speech at CTS – Monday, September 17, 12:30 p.m.

CTS celebrates Constitution Day with a free event open to the public discussing potential 'conflict' between hate speech and the first amendment. As part of the presentation, participants will have a chance to rule what speech should be protected and what should be prohibited under the Constitution.

If anyone interested in leading carpool from church, please contact Karen Walker.

2018 Indiana AIDS Walk - Sunday, September 23

The Eugene and Marilyn Glick Indiana History Center (450 West Ohio Street). Registration runs from 11:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. Step Off at 1:00 p.m. and lasts until 2 p.m. If you wish to walk with us, please wear your GOD T-shirt and register at the table. Sean Baker will be our contact person at the Walk that day. Call him (317-506-9614) when you arrive to find the location of our group.

Songs at 7171

On Saturday, September 29, at 7:00 PM come and hear Julie Houston perform some of her professional repertoire. Julie has a long history of performance, and she sings and plays Latin, jazz, pop, swing, old standards, and pretty much anything you might want to hear. We'll have the Mayflower Room set up cabaret-style with food and drink (non-alcoholic, of course) for all. Sean Baker is unavailable that night, so Julie will be accompanied by other artists. This is a fund-raiser for the Special Music Fund, so bring your checkbook along with your anticipation for a great night of music!

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church and where most of our visitors find information about us. We want to hear from you, so please contact Pastor Sarah with your social media and website updates.

Green Team Tip

Have you checked your tire pressure recently? Fully inflated tires get better mileage.

September Mission of the Month is the UCC Mental Health Network.

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- Jesus has shown us the way to embrace those who are marginalized by society and advocate with and for them.
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This Week at First Congregational

September 16 – Sept 22		Family Promise Week
Sunday, September 16	5:30 p.m.	New Creation
Tuesday, September 18	1:30 p.m.	Circle IV Meeting (at Marion Harcourt's)
Wednesday, September 19	7:30 p.m.	New Creation Planning Team
Thursday, September 20	1:00 p.m.	Men's Lunch
Thursday, September 20	7:00 p.m.	Choir Rehearsal
Sunday, September 23	9:45 a.m.	Sunday Adult Class
Sunday, September 23	11:00 a.m.	Traditional Service with Rev. Worth Hartman & Just Peace Team
Sunday, September 23	5:30 p.m.	New Creation

7171 N. Pennsylvania St.
Indianapolis, IN 46240

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FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

e-pistle for the week of September 20, 2018

Minister's Message

Dear First Congregational Church Family,

These past few days have been rich and filled with God's Spirit of mercy as I serve the wider church mentoring young pastors in the Bethany Fellows Project. These pastors serve churches across America and are in need of support, guidance, and encouragement. We are in San Antonio, Texas at the Oblate School of Theology and Renewal Center.

While walking the gardens, I met a young priest from Sri Lanka who studying here and has worked as a peacemaker with the Tamils. As you know, Rev. Chip who serves as a pastor in the Indiana-Kentucky Conference, was apart of a peace keeping mission in Sri Lanka. The need for peace continues.

As we praying about and study the Just Peace process for us, let us lift up in prayer

the world's deep longing for peace. Whether it be inner peace or outer peace, whether it be across the world or in our own homes...may our hearts and minds be led by God's deep peace that calls to us from the deep.

With peace and love,
Pastor Sarah

Worship for Sunday

Adult Class

For Just Peacemaking Sunday we will be looking at a UCC statement entitled, "General Synod pronouncement and proposal for action on the United Church of Christ as a "Just Peace Church". This statement expands on the historic 1985 General Synod pronouncement declaring our denomination a Just Peace Church. What does this mean for First Congregational Church as we commit ourselves to just peacemaking? Just peacemaking is a big calling. What parts of this call of Jesus for us to be peacemakers speaks to us and our church today?

Traditional Service - 11:00 a.m.

Worship led by Rev. Worth Hartman and members of FCC's Just Peacemaking Team.

New Creation - 5:30 p.m.

This Sunday we're continuing our exploration of God's Radiant Light as it shines through ministries dedicated to helping families and communities. As we finish up another week of serving Family Promise, it seems fitting to celebrate FCC's long-standing dedication to this ministry as an opportunity for us to truly reflect God's light. Other ministries, such as Exodus, Habitat for Humanity, Humane Society, and other such transformative endeavors, will also get a review and prayer of thanks in New Creation worship this Sunday. Join us in this celebration of how God's realm of justice is realized one family at a time.

Who is My Neighbor?

A Tiny House aims to provide big solutions for South Carolina LGBTQ community



When LGBTQ individuals near the campus of Clemson University, in the areas of upstate South Carolina unexpectedly find themselves without a home or a place to feel safe, Peace Congregational United Church of Christ will be ready to meet them.

Congregation members and the Clemson community are working side-by-side in the design and construction of a tiny house, a mobile residency for a person in the LGBTQ community who is no longer welcome in at home. The \$20,000 project is in progress with the help of a \$10,000 Grastop Grant from UCC Justice and Witness Ministries. The first occupant could be ready to find refuge there in January.

[Read more via UC News.](#)

What's Happening at FCC

2018 Indiana AIDS Walk - Sunday, September 23

The Eugene and Marilyn Glick Indiana History Center (450 West Ohio Street). Registration runs from 11:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. Step Off at 1:00 p.m. and lasts until 2 p.m. If you wish to walk with us, please wear your GOD T-shirt and register at the table. Sean Baker will be our contact person at the Walk that day. Call him (317-506-9614) when you arrive to find the location of our group.

Songs at 7171

Remember to join us next Saturday, September 29, at 7:00 PM for a cabaret evening of song, snacks, and socializing. Julie Houston and friends will be in the Mayflower Room to share their talents and repertoire, all for the benefit of FCC's Special Music Fund. Come for the music, stay for the donations!

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Green Team Tip

Congress is considering a revision to the Endangered Species Act that would gut many of its protections. The public comment period close on Sep 27th. Please write, call, or email your Senators and member of Congress. You may also post your comment directly through <http://regulations.gov>, or such groups as Environmental Action.

September Mission of the Month is the UCC Mental Health Network.

The United Church of Christ Mental Health Network works to reduce stigma and promote the inclusion of people with mental illnesses/brain disorders and their families in the life, leadership and work of congregations. Its stated values are

- Jesus has shown us the way to embrace those who are marginalized by society and advocate with and for them.
- Every person has value and worth and deserves love, dignity and respect.
- All people, regardless of mental health or disability status, have something to contribute to the life, leadership and work of their congregations.
- Community matters. A sense of belonging is important to us all, whether we face mental health challenges ourselves or not.
- True compassion in ministry and relationships is based on equality.

The Network also helps churches such as FCC that are considering becoming a W.I.S.E. Church (Welcoming, Inclusive, Supportive, Engaged) by providing resources and support to reach that goal and to do so by embodying the love of Jesus in the

process. During the month of September your loose dollar bills in the offering plate or larger amounts in the Mission Offering envelopes marked "Mental Health Network" or checks with that notation will go to support its work.

Pantry Items of the Month

During September we are collecting the following items: soups, beans, rice, mac'n'cheese, paper towels, and body wash.

Pastoral Care

While Pastor Sarah is away serving the wider church as a mentor to young pastors in the Bethany Fellows Project and for a family wedding from 9/17-9/23, you may contact Rev. Worth Hartman for pastoral care at (317) 417-0806 or whartman@westminstervillage.com.

Pastor Sarah will return to the office on Tuesday, 9/25, and may be contacted at (386) 478 - 9012 or at pastorsarah@fcindy.org.

This Week at First Congregational

Sunday, September 23	5:30 p.m.	New Creation
Wednesday, September 19	7:30 p.m.	New Creation Planning Team
Thursday, September 27	11:45 a.m.	Women's Lunch
Thursday, September 27	7:00 p.m.	Choir Rehearsal
Saturday, September 29	7:00 p.m.	Mayflower Room Cabaret Benefit
Sunday, September 30	9:45 a.m.	Sunday Adult Class
Sunday, September 30	11:00 a.m.	Traditional Service
Sunday, September 30	5:30 p.m.	New Creation

7171 N. Pennsylvania St.
Indianapolis, IN 46240

 [FirstCongregationalUCCIndy](#)

 [Forward](#)



FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

e-pistle for the week of September 27, 2018

Minister's Message

Dear First Congregational Church Family,

Thanks to all the hearts and hands that helped to support our Family Promise ministry last week, an important ministry that helps homeless children and adults by housing them in our church. A special word of thanks to our church's co-coordinators Ann Leatherman and Katie Booth who have faithfully served for 18 years. We pray that the children and adults who experience our hospitality felt encouraged as they seek security and more hopeful futures.

In the coming weeks we will look at our ability to continue to support Family Promise as a host church. It takes anywhere from 60-70 people filling volunteer roles (many times individual people filling in multiple roles). As our church membership has changed over the last two decades, we are realizing that it is time to reevaluate our resources. We support Family Promise in multiple ways in addition to being a host church. We collect donations of

food and clothing, as well as make monetary donations. Please join me in prayer as we are called to explore how best to support Family Promise in the coming months. I trust that we will make an informed decision that honors our congregation and seeks to fulfill our mission.

Blessings,
Pastor Sarah

Worship for Sunday

Adult Class

TBD

Traditional Service - 11:00 a.m.

Pastor Sarah will preach on "Justice Leads to Joy."

Scripture: Esther 7:1-6, 9-10, 9:20-22

New Creation - 5:30 p.m.

While God's Radiant Light is always around and within us, shadows can also envelop us when light dims. This Sunday in New Creation shadow puppets will help us explore ways in which shadow and the absence of light can be both discouraging and enriching. Come and join us as we listen to and experience God's and ours about light and darkness.

Who is My Neighbor?

Formally incorporated in 2005, *Mano en Mano | Hand in Hand* is the "go-to" agency in Downeast Maine for Latino/Latina, immigrant, and farmworker issues. As a 2010 Neighbors in Need grant recipient, Mano en Mano provides a wide variety of direct services in English and Spanish. The three general programmatic areas are:

- Educational Services & Scholarships comprise the bulk of our programming and the heart of our mission. From free English classes, to college scholarships, to one-on-one tutoring and after school support, Mano en Mano believes that education is a tool that can make dreams possible and realize social justice.
- Outreach & Community Events ensure that Mano en Mano can effectively reach and serve their constituency while building bridges between various and diverse communities.
- Affordable Housing provides farmworkers who want to settle in Milbridge, ME with an opportunity to live somewhere that is safe, decent, and designed with their



needs in mind.

Program Director, Bethany Woods shares “when we first started adult English classes several years ago, the goals were based on language acquisition. But the project has evolved into much more, providing social resources that are not often readily available to new immigrants.” Ms. Woods further states, “Our adult students attend every week after long days working, exhibiting a high level of dedication to their own progress. The social activity and community development that has grown from these English classes is just as significant. Even more importantly, our students have become resources for one other, offering a supportive environment to encourage each other's learning and look out for their fellow peers.”

In service to their clientele, *Mano en Mano | Hand in Hand* believes in removing barriers within their community. This philosophy is similar to the core values of United Church of Christ: *changing lives, continuing testament and extravagant welcomes*. To learn more about Mano en Mano visit <http://www.manomaine.org/>.

What's Happening at FCC

Parent Education TONIGHT - An Invitation from Meridian Hills School

Join Us for our first Parent Education Night on Thursday, September 27th from 7:00-9:00pm. Sarah Cook, a former Meridian Hills parent and current Carmel Cooperative teacher will be introducing us to the wildlife we can find in and around our neighborhoods. An Indiana Naturalist, Sarah will be teaching us how to identify our local habitat so we can teach our kids! Don't miss out!

Songs at 7171

Don't miss the fun this Saturday, September 29, at 7:00 PM! An evening of song, snacks,

and social time will all come together with Julie Houston and friends. Hope to see everyone there!

Chautauqua Update

Sunday, September 30th is the last day to submit your application to Shannon for an expenses-paid week in Chautauqua, NY in the summer of 2019. Don't miss out on this golden opportunity! See bulletin board for details or contact Rich Gibson, Nancy Dickinson, Worth Hartman, Chuck Kiphart, or Pastor Sarah if you have any questions.

Crop Walk - Sunday, October 2

One way we can be a JUST PEACE Church is to walk to help stop hunger locally and worldwide. Be a walker, help sponsor a walker or donate through church at www.crophunger/walk.org/Indianapolisin/FCindy. Look for the CROP WALK table in the narthex for more information or see Sally Coombs. sallysews73@gmail.com or call 317-446-2853.

Buzz - October 7

Join us on Sunday, October 7 to celebrate World Communion Sunday and God's call for us to be a people of generosity. Pastor Sarah will lead worship with guest preacher Rev. Bruce Barkhauer, Disciples of Christ minister and the Director of the Center for Faith and Giving. Rev. Barkhauer will inspire us and guide us as we dig deeply into what the Bible says about faith, money, and giving. This information will help us as we launch our new 1857 Society to celebrate people who include First Congregational Church UCC in their will. Join us following 11am worship for a Buzz session to learn more about the new 1857 Society and to learn more from Rev. Barkhauer and from CTS Trustee and attorney Ted Waggoner who will be available to answer questions about estate planning.

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:

October 7, 14, and 21

November 11 and 18

December 9, 16 and 30

New Member Sunday!

Make First Congregational UCC your new church home and join with others on Sunday, October 28th during the 11am worship service. Pastor Sarah is looking forward to hearing about your faith journey and welcoming you into this church family. Contact Pastor Sarah to schedule a conversation about membership pastorsarah@fcindy.org.

Pastoral Transition Team

As Pastor Sarah continues to serve the congregation in her first six months, the church has a Transition Team to offer guidance, support and to ensure open and transparent communication between the pastor and the congregation. The members of this team are Randy Walker, Liana Campos, Jim Rutherford and Nancy Dickinson. Please feel free to be in touch with the Transition Team with any feedback, concerns, or comments that you wish to be addressed during this important time of transition and new beginnings.

Church Social Media/Website/Design Team Update

We are blessed by a talented team of volunteers who help with church social media (Facebook, Instagram, Twitter), Website and design. Team members include Sean Baker, Angela Edwards, Josh Cody, and Pastor Sarah. Pastor Sarah leads this team and is the primary contact for members wishing to share church information on social media and the website. Thank you for helping to spread the good news about the mission and ministry of the church through the website and social media. These are popular platforms for people to first learn about our church and where most of our visitors find information about us. We want to hear from you, so please contact Pastor Sarah with your social media and website updates.

Green Team Tip

Don't forget to adjust your thermostat and turn your water heater temperature down when leaving on vacation.

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This Week at First Congregational

Sunday, September 30	5:30 p.m.	New Creation
Wednesday, October 3	7:00p	Trustees Meeting
Wednesday, October 3	7:30 p.m.	New Creation Planning Team
Thursday, October 4	1:00 p.m.	Men's Lunch
Thursday, October 4	7:00 p.m.	Choir Rehearsal
Sunday, October 7	9:45 a.m.	Sunday Adult Class
Sunday, October 7	11:00 a.m.	Traditional Service
Sunday, October 7	12:15 p.m.	Foundation Buzz and pitch-in
Sunday, October 7	5:30 p.m.	New Creation

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