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FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

E-pistle for the Week of September 5, 2019

Dear First Congregational,

One of the best parts of being part of a church family is that we've got each other. We show up for each other and we pray for each other. We laugh and we cry together. We are there for each other.

All this being together is what it means to be the church. I hope you can be with us this Sunday as we explore what it means to be a Green Church in an age of climate crisis. Our worship and our "Green lunch" invites us to explore this theme.

After the Green lunch we will take a quick trip over to explore and walk the outdoor labyrinth at our neighboring church, Second Presbyterian on Meridian. Walking the labyrinth outside, praying for God's good Creation, and being together. I am looking forward to Sunday!

Blessings,

Pastor Saran

Worship

Adult Class - 9:45 a.m.

Sept 8 - We finish "Conclusion: The Anxious Bench" from Anxious To Talk About It, and debrief.

Sunday Worship Service - 11:00 a.m.

Rev. Dr. Sarah Lund will preach on "It's Not Easy Being Green."

Scripture: Genesis 1:28-31a

Green Lunch on Sunday, September 8th

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

Thank you!

Spiritual Explorers Labyrinth Walks

FC's second 2019 labyrinth-walking experience will be on **September 8** at Second Presbyterian Church, 7700 N. Meridian St., **following FC's Green Team's 12:15 lunch**. Persons who attend the Green Lunch, as well as those who do not, can all meet at **2:00** at Second Pres to walk the outside labyrinth.

What's Happening at FC

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

Choir Rehearsals begin TONIGHT!

Hello FC folk! Hope everyone is having a good summer. The choir will be starting back up soon. Rehearsals are on Thursday nights from 7:00 to 8:30 PM beginning tonight, September 5th. Our first Sunday service is this Sunday, September 8th, with the usual pre-service rehearsal time of 10:15 AM. We welcome new members. If anyone is interested in joining the choir, please email Julie at juliehouston@comcast.net. We would love to have you join us!

TONIGHT! In Harmony: a community singing group

Sally McSpadden is starting a new singing group, which will be hosted by First Congregational. It is called "In Harmony", and is a non-auditioned, non-performing, intergenerational singing group for ALL voices. Music is taught aurally, no music reading ability necessary. There will be occasional special guests speaking on a range of topics including mindful movement and breath. It will meet twice a month on Thursdays, from 6-7 pm, in the Mayflower Room. The dates are 9/5, 9/19, 10/3, 10/17, 11/7, and 11/21. A small fee will apply, with the bulk going to support First Congregational. This group will include people from outside our church, and is also open to anyone in our church family. If you are interested, learn more about it on Facebook - [facebook.com/IndyInHarmony](https://www.facebook.com/IndyInHarmony), or by email - IndyInHarmony@gmail.com. For general questions, contact Wendy Baldwin or Bob Cook.

September Buzz: Witness to the Southern US Border

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

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

Around a Table

Would you like to build connections with other members outside of worship? Those interested will be placed in groups to get together for meals or snacks over a 4 month period. We will then repeat with new sign ups and new groups! If interested, please complete the attached [sign up sheet](#) and return it to church (basket in the narthex) by September 22. Presented by Care & Connections board – please contact Karen Walker (317-319-8950 or Karen.e.d.walker@gmail.com) for any questions or help with sign up.

Sign Up for "FC's Got Talent"

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

Chautauqua

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

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

Green Team Tip

Fall is a good time to plant trees. Does your yard need one or two? (If you want to share a green habit, please send it to hoot.gibson.tds@gmail.com.)



Food Donations for the Northside Pantry

Donations have been generous and are appreciated. **In the month of August, we donated 155 lbs of food and 5 lbs of non-food items!!!** Please keep them coming!

September Mission of the Month: Hoosier Interfaith Power and Light

HIPL is an interfaith organization dedicated to advocating for sustainable living and changes to protect God's creation of life on this earth, both human and others. Its mission is to educate congregations on sustainable living practices that will reduce our carbon footprint, and promote the use of renewable energy resources. They were instrumental in helping us start and maintain the study and work process that has led to our efforts to decrease our church's carbon foot print with changes to our lighting and now the installation of a photovoltaic system that will allow the church to capture part of its energy from a renewable source. The organization is funded primarily from contributions from its member congregations. Please support them with the September Mission of the Month.

Pantry Items of the Month

During September we are collecting the following items: bread, baking mixes, canned vegetables, and deodorant.

Pastoral Care

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

THIS WEEK AT FIRST CONGREGATIONAL

Thursday, September 5

1:00 p.m.

Men's Lunch

Thursday, September 5	6:00 p.m.	In Harmony
Thursday, September 5	7:00 p.m.	Choir Rehearsal
Sunday, September 8	9:45 a.m.	Sunday Adult Class
Sunday, September 8	11:00 a.m.	Worship
Sunday, September 8	12:15 p.m.	Green Lunch
Sunday, September 8	2:00 p.m.	Spiritual Explorers Labyrinth Walk @ Second Presbyterian
Wednesday, September 11	11:00 a.m.	Music Support Team
Wednesday, September 11	5:00 p.m.	Mental Health Team
Wednesday, September 11	7:00 p.m.	Church Council
Sunday, September 15	9:45 a.m.	Sunday Adult Class
Sunday, September 15	11:00 a.m.	Worship
Sunday, September 15	12:15 p.m.	Outreach & Service

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FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Epistle for the Week of September 12, 2019

Dear First Congregational,

As we continue our journey in the Be the Church series, this Sunday we will look at what theological grounding we have for protecting the environment. The Bible tells stories of God's activity in the world. But what do we say about God as relates to the climate crisis? What is God's relationship to natural disasters, such as the Labor Day category five hurricane that destroyed whole communities? There are many perspectives on God's role in the created order. What do you think?

I appreciate the diversity of opinions and all the various life journeys at First Congregational. It is truly a gift we give each other that we can make space for multiple views and know that it is okay to think differently.

One thing I am grateful for is our shared commitment to honor our differences we still seek to create a place to belong, a place to heal and a place to love. For me, that's an important part of what it means to Be The Church.

Blessings,
Pastor Sarah

https://www.columbiamissourian.com/news/local/nonprofit-founded-by-columbia-doctor-to-send-volunteers-to-the/article_cbd232a8-d327-11e9-a875-6327cbe1a691.html

Worship

Adult Class - 9:45 a.m.

Sept 15 - WISE presentation with Shannon Abbott: The Practice of Whole-Self Care through Movement and Meditation. Learn more about Shannon's ministry of wellness through an accessible to all, stress reducing, mindfulness based practice of movement and meditation incorporating the mind, body, and spirit as one. Discussion and Q&A to follow.

Sunday Worship Service - 11:00 a.m.

Rev. Dr. Sarah Lund will preach on "Ecological Justice and God-talk."

Scripture: Exodus 32:7-14

A Note from Your Music Designer

Well, it's almost fall...and the choir has returned! It's that time again to blow the dust out off the pipes.



This Sunday will continue a once-a-month series of Sacred/Classical/Traditional music whose meaning for different people will be explored in the coming year. We've had a lot of fun this past year experimenting with different forms of worship and different ways to bring multi-genre music to worship to inspire, ignite, and illuminate levity within our family of fellowship. We the congregation covenant to continue growing together to learn what we look like in the upcoming 2020 year: our spiritual needs, our missions, our multi-generational viewpoints, our multi-cultural backgrounds, and our many multifarious musical

traditions that we all share together and need to honor in hope that God is still speaking to everyone! I am excited to continue to celebrate all of these things(!)...hmm, that is, in the most balanced way that can spiritually enliven all who have found us; in addition to (and most importantly) what pleases the wellness of worship through music that serves God and our worship experiences together.

This Sunday I am thrilled to bring you music from each category: sacred, traditional, and classical—all from the state-of-the-art 1976 Schlicker pipes from the late 1900's!

- Sean Baker

What's Happening at FC

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

Future of Family Promise Hosting

Did you read the August [Colony](#) article on this topic? Only one comment has been received so far. If you want to weigh in, **please contact Sue Chapman before Sunday, Sept. 15**, when the Outreach & Service Board meets.

October Colony Submissions Due, Monday, September 16th

If you haven't already submitted your articles for the October Colony, please email them no later than Monday, September 16th to shannon@fcindy.org

Bread for the World Celebration Supper - Thursday, 9/19, 6:15pm

This year, the Bread for the World organization is holding the celebration dinner for the successful offering of letters campaign and other events this year at our church. Join us for a light supper on Thursday, September 19 at First Congregational Church. We will gather at 6:15 p.m.--with supper and program beginning at 6:30 and concluding by 8:30. **All are welcome!** All from our church - great Bread supporters! - are invited to join the dinner and fellowship and hear more about Bread efforts and accomplishments!

We are celebrating our strong participation in Lobby Day, the recent "Fair Shot for All Children" gathering in Noblesville, and our third annual Joint Ecumenical Offering of Letters. There will also be previews of coming events and next year's Joint Offering. Our pastor, **Sarah Lund**, will speak to us about her own experience of hunger and her participation in the "Pastors' Protest Fast" that preceded the "Fair Shot" event. Rev. Dr. Sarah Lund is the Bread denominational ambassador for the United Church of Christ. The light supper will consist of Chicken Salad on Croissant, Fresh Fruit Salad, Pasta Salad, Veggie Salad, and dessert. **We suggest a contribution of \$10 per person toward**

the cost of the food, payable at the door.

Please register by Monday, September 16 at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/bread-for-the-world-indiana-celebration-supper-tickets-71120430121>

If you have any questions, please contact Karen Walker or Sue Chapman.

In Harmony: a community singing group - Thursday, 9/19, 6:30pm (in the Sanctuary)

Sally McSpadden is starting a new singing group, which will be hosted by First Congregational. It is called "In Harmony", and is a non-auditioned, non-performing, intergenerational singing group for ALL voices. Music is taught aurally, no music reading ability necessary. There will be occasional special guests speaking on a range of topics including mindful movement and breath. It will meet **twice a month on Thursdays, from 6:30-7:30 pm**, in the Mayflower Room. The dates are **9/19 (sanctuary), 10/3, 10/17, 11/7, and 11/21**. A small fee will apply, with the bulk going to support First Congregational. This group will include people from outside our church, and is also open to anyone in our church family. If you are interested, learn more about it on Facebook - [facebook.com/IndyInHarmony](https://www.facebook.com/IndyInHarmony), or by email - IndyInHarmony@gmail.com. For general questions, contact Wendy Baldwin or Bob Cook.

Friday Night at the Movies, 9/20, 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 Karen Walker or Alice Rutherford

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.

Around a Table

Would you like to build connections with other members outside of worship? Those interested will be placed in groups to get together for meals or snacks over a 4 month period. We will then repeat with new sign ups and new groups! If interested, please complete the attached [sign up sheet](#) and return it to church (basket in the narthex) by September 22. Presented by Care & Connections board – please contact Karen Walker (317-319-8950 or Karen.e.d.walker@gmail.com) for any questions or help with sign up.

Festival of Faiths

Please sign up if you can work for an hour in our booth during the Festival of Faiths on **Sunday, Sept. 22 from 1-5 p.m.** The festival is held in Veterans' Park (corner of Michigan and Meridian Streets). This year's theme is Celebrating Religious Diversity. See Bob Cook for more information.

September Buzz: Witness to the Southern US Border

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

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

Adult Ed. Time on the IndyGo Red Line, Sunday, September 29

9:00 AM Meet at the Redline Platform, 66th Street and North College

(parking on access street west side of College at 66th St.)

9:17 to 9:44 ride to 18th Street and North Meridian Street platform

9:59 to 10:30 return trip to 66th Street and North College and on to 11:00 AM Worship at FCC

- We can talk, sing, pray witnessing to our just peace, green values and celebrating a leap forward in our cities public transit.
- Wear FCC tee shirts, buttons, bring signs, banners,

- And it's tree



FC's Got Talent

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

Choir Rehearsals

Hello FC folk! Hope everyone is having a good summer. The choir will be starting back up soon. Rehearsals are on Thursday nights from 7:00 to 8:30 PM. We welcome new members. If anyone is interested in joining the choir, please email Julie at juliehouston@comcast.net. We would love to have you join us!

Green Team Tip

This week's tip comes from susanna-judith rae: To avoid wasting food, consider designating a "use soon" area of your refrigerator to circumvent our human tendency to buy food that we intend to eat, yet throw away.

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



Food Donations for the Northside Pantry

Donations have been generous and are appreciated. **In the month of August, we donated 155 lbs of food and 5 lbs of non-food items!!!** Please keep them coming!

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decrease our church's carbon foot print with changes to our lighting and now the installation of a photovoltaic system that will allow the church to capture part of its energy from a renewable source. The organization is funded primarily from contributions from its member congregations. Please support them with the September Mission of the Month.

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Pastoral Care

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

THIS WEEK AT FIRST CONGREGATIONAL

Thursday, September 12	7:00 p.m.	Choir Rehearsal
Sunday, September 15	9:45 a.m.	Sunday Adult Class w/ Shannon Abbott
Sunday, September 15	11:00 a.m.	Worship
Sunday, September 15	12:15 p.m.	Outreach & Service
Tuesday, September 17	1:30 p.m.	Circle IV Book Club
Thursday, September 19	1:00 p.m.	Men's Lunch
Thursday, September 19	6:00 p.m.	In Harmony (Sanctuary)
Thursday, September 19	6:30 p.m.	Bread for the World Dinner (MF Rm)
Thursday, September 19	7:00 p.m.	Choir Rehearsal
Friday, September 20	6:30 p.m.	Friday Night at the Movies (Keystone Art Cinema)
Sunday, September 22	9:45 a.m.	Sunday Adult Class
Sunday, September 22	11:00 a.m.	Worship – Just Peace Sunday
Sunday, September 22	12:30 p.m.	Buzz: Witness to the Southern Border
Sunday, September 22	1:00 p.m.	Festival of Faiths

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FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Epistle for the Week of September 26, 2019

Dear First Congregational,

I invite you to join me in offering prayers of support for our Administrative Assistant, Shannon Abbott, as she prepares for her ecclesiastical council **this Sunday at 3pm at St. Peter's UCC in Carmel** (Shannon's home congregation). Shannon is already ordained, but this meeting will invite members of the Southeast Association (that is you all) to vote on whether or not she should be offered the opportunity for privilege of call, that is, having her ordination in the United Church of Christ. We are blessed by her work among us and it is exciting to see her ministry unfold. Shannon assures us she is happy to continue to serve as our part-time Administrative Assistant even as she looks to expand her wellness and healing ministry in the UCC.

As part of her process, Shannon wrote a nearly 30 page paper about her theology and why the UCC is a good fit for her ministry. I want to share an excerpt with you here:

"The UCC understanding that 'God is still speaking' means that the Spirit of God is still

blowing through God's people and is still relevant in the lives of people today, and that as Christ's Church we can offer hope and healing to those who have been wounded. There is a great need for healing in our world, especially in relation to Church woundedness. There are too many stories out there of how churches have caused pain and suffering where there should have been hope and healing and have created division where there should have been unity. People who have been wounded by the church are often reluctant to step foot into a church, because of the trauma they have experienced in the past. The UCC as a united and uniting Church has the opportunity to be a place of hope and healing. In some cases that may mean we need to widen our vision of what ministry can and does look like."

Let's pray for the Spirit's wisdom to guide Shannon and the UCC as we discern together how God is calling us to Be the Church together.

Blessings,
Pastor Sarah

Worship

Adult Ed. Time on the IndyGo Red Line, Sunday, September 29

*9:00 AM Meet at the Redline Platform, 66th Street and North College (parking on access street west side of College at 66th St.)

*9:17 to 9:44 ride to 18th Street and North Meridian Street platform.

*9:59 to 10:30 return trip to 66th Street and North College and on to 11:00 AM Worship at FCC.

We can talk, sing, pray witnessing to our just peace, green values and celebrating a leap forward in our cities public transit.

Wear FCC tee shirts, buttons, bring signs, banners.

And it's free!

Sunday Worship Service - 11:00 a.m.

Rev. Dr. Sarah Lund will share "A Living Room Conversation with Rev. Dr. Chris Davies."
Scriptures: Luke 16:19-31

What's Happening at FC

(See [September 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. We would love to have you join us!

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!

PCRC Meeting, Sunday October 6, 12:15pm

Pastor Carol's Pastoral Congregational Relations Committee (PCRC) meets in closed sessions quarterly, including Sunday, October 6 after church. Currently Pastor Carol's focus is on pulpit supply, pastoral care visits, Adult Education and Worship Leader coordination. Bob Cook, Janet Selby, Clark Collier, and susanna-judith rae are on her PCRC Committee. If you have something you want them to discuss at their meeting, please let one of them know.

CROP (Communities Responding to Overcome Poverty) Walk, Sunday October 6th -

Let's continue to HELP END HUNGER ONE STEP AT A TIME by being a walker, sponsoring a walker, donating through church at www.crophunger/walk.org/Indianapolisin/FCindy or by check payable to CWS/CROP. Additional information at the CROP WALK table in the narthex or see Sally Coombs, sallysews73@gmail.com or call 317-446-2853.

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).

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FC's Got Talent

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Thanks.

Green Team Tip

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Pantry Items of the Month

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Pastoral Care

While Pastor Sarah is serving the wider church in Toronto at the headquarters of with the United Church of Canada from Thursday, September 26 – Saturday September 28, Pastor Carol and Rev. Dr. Pat Larracey are available for any pastoral care needs.

Pastor Carol can be reached on September 26 at (317) 496-9732 or at casowle@gmail.com.

Rev. Dr. Pat Larracey can be reached on September 27-28 at (317) 625-6801 or plainandfancy1963@att.net

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

THIS WEEK AT FIRST CONGREGATIONAL

Thursday, September 26	11:45 a.m.	Women's Lunch
Thursday, September 26	7:00 p.m.	Choir Rehearsal
Sunday, September 29	9:00 a.m.	Sunday Adult Class on the Red Line
Sunday, September 29	11:00 a.m.	Worship w/ Rev. Chris Davies
Sunday, September 29	12:00 p.m.	Coffee Chat w/ Rev. Chris Davies
Sunday, September 29	3:00 p.m.	Ecclesiastical Council w/ Shannon Abbott @ St. Peter's UCC – Carmel, IN
Wednesday, October 2	11:00 a.m.	Witness & Welcome
Wednesday, October 2	7:00 p.m.	Trustees
Thursday, October 3	1:00 p.m.	Men's Lunch
Thursday, October 3	6:00 p.m.	In Harmony
Thursday, October 3	7:00 p.m.	Choir Rehearsal
Sunday, October 6	9:45 a.m.	Sunday Adult Class
Sunday, October 6	11:00 a.m.	Worship
Sunday, October 6	1:00 p.m.	Crop Walk