



FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

THE PILGRIM COLONY

April 2019

Pastor's Reflections

Walking humbly with God...our Lenten journey continues into April as we move forward towards Easter. Together we have explored how God calls us to live faithfully as we seek to do justice, love mercy, and walk humbly with God (Micah 6:8). We continue to meet in our Lenten small groups, and we met for two days with our Whole Church Retreat where we explored how we are "different, equal and whole: coming together as one." During this retreat it became clear just how different we are from one another, and how God uses our differences to enhance the whole Body of Christ (1 Corinthians 12). We were reminded that walking humbly with God, in part, means embracing the different gifts of others as just as equal and important as our own. We may not have all the spiritual gifts we wish we had, and that's okay. God intends for us to come together as one...in all of our differences.

As we move into Holy Week, we invite you to join us for a Creative Worship Design experience for Palm Sunday, an alternative worship experience for Maundy Thursday at 6:30pm, beginning with a simple meal in the Mayflower room with singing, followed by a service of shadows in the sanctuary. Good Friday you are invited to worship with the wider community as Pastor Sarah leads a service at 11am at Castleton United Methodist Church (see page 12 for more details) with lunch served afterwards. Easter Sunday we will celebrate the resurrection of Christ with special organ music, the Hallelujah Chorus, and Easter Lilies.

As we enter into our second year together, we are planning more opportunities for FUN together—this is part of our rebirth as a church. Be sure to join us for all the special events and gatherings as much as you are able. We are growing in our connections with each other, we are finding a place to belong, a place to heal, and a place to love at First Congregational.

With hope,
Pastor Sarah
(386) 478-9012 or pastorsarah@fcindy.org

Moderator's Reflections

For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven: a time to be born, and a time to die; a time to plant, and a time to pluck up what is planted. - Ecclesiastes 3:1-2

Radical Congregationalism

We may be United Church of Christ, but our DNA is all Congregational. We are the spiritual descendants of the first practitioners of participatory democracy in the Western Hemisphere. Of course, now is different from then in many ways. Participation is voluntary now, not mandatory. Not attending a meeting today is hardly remarked on, instead of being punished by fines, public censure or even ostracism or expulsion. Today's tolerance may be much, much better; still and all, I envy the full participation of yesteryear.

In my last article, I discussed the challenges we face and the direction we've agreed to take: while we're well off financially, we're spending at long-term unsustainable rates to expand our mission, and project vibrancy and engagement in today's problems.

I confess, it's comforting to know that January's Annual Meeting gave the Council and Boards a strong mandate to continue down this path. It's not quite as comforting to realize that our mandate rests on the roughly 30% of our membership who showed up for our Annual Meeting. (By way of comparison, the turnout for the November 2018 midterms was over 49%.) Stronger participation does two wonderful things: More folks buying in makes the mandate stronger and broader. Even more important, more voices discussing problems and possible solutions makes the agreed-on solutions more robust, and their implementation more energetic.

In the future, you will see some efforts to increase our participation and sense of community. They include:

- Formal amendment of the Constitution to allow proxy voting at the Annual Meeting
- Exposure to writings on ways for communities and individuals to accommodate disagreement without dissolving into discord
 - o (for instance, https://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/2019/03/11/dalai-lama-arthur-brooks-each-us-can-break-cycle-hatred/?utm_term=.b6445963a20a)
- Special meetings to address issues that require congregational consideration and decision before the next Annual Meeting

I believe that God is Infinite and encompasses Truth. I believe that human beings are finite, and each owns a different, smaller piece of the truth. The more people who bring out and share their parts of the truth, the stronger and more complete is the truth that the community can acknowledge and proceed from. I think the first Congregationalists realized this. They saw participation and sharing of vision and ideas as a spiritual duty; conversely, they saw a refusal to participate and share as sinful.

As we proceed on our path of revitalization and expanded mission, may we be infused and immersed in the sense of our participation as a holy and spiritual duty. Amen.

Rich Gibson

317-735-2895 or hoot.gibson.tds@gmail.com

Welcome Carol Sowle as new Pastoral Care Associate

Pastor Carol Sowle became a member of First Congregational in 2007, drawn by our Open and Affirming stance, complete with rainbow sticker on the door, and by the beautiful sanctuary.



Pastor Carol is a true Hoosier: born in Angola, Indiana, grew up in Auburn, Indiana, and graduated from Indiana-Purdue University Fort Wayne. For her first career, she worked for Lincoln Life Insurance prior to her earning a Master of Arts in Pastoral Theology from St. Mary of the Woods College, West Terre Haute Indiana. Pastor Carol is a graduate of the Clinical Pastoral Education program at St. Vincent Hospital, Indianapolis. She then served as a Hospice Bereavement Coordinator and then as a Hospice Chaplain.

Pastor Carol went back to Seminary in 2008 at Christian Theological Seminary and earned a Master of Divinity in 2012. She retired from Aseracare Hospice in 2015. Pastor Carol has served First Congregational in several roles including Vice Moderator and Moderator and has been involved in many capacities including New Creation worship and worship planning, Adult education planning and facilitating, serving as board chair for Worship and Faith, worship liturgist, and many other projects.

In March of 2019, Pastor Carol began serving as a Lay Minister in the ¼ time role of Pastoral Care Associate as part of the process of discernment towards ordination in the United Church of Christ.

Sunday Adult Class

April 7 - Presentation by Marion Harcourt on the History of FCC in preparation for the FCC History Tour that starts after a pitch-in lunch

April 14 - Brainstorm on how/what the Adult Ed class contributes to our Just Peace Church work, and what might we do?

April 21 - Exploring Resurrection Part 1 - the Traditional View. We will read a reflection from Shawnthea Monroe, who is the senior minister of Plymouth Church of Shaker Heights, Ohio. Her reflection was published in Christian Century, March 10, 2016.

April 28 - Exploring Resurrection Part 2 - the Progressive Christian view. We view a video and discuss an article from Marcus Borg.

All classes meet in the Library (room 212) at 9:45 a.m. All are welcome!

Call to Service

"Here am I; send me!" Isaiah 6:8"

April Mission of the Month: Exodus Refugee Immigration

Our Mission of the month for April is the Exodus Refugee program. Exodus Refugee is an organization with a chapter in Indianapolis that helps resettle refugees who come to this country legally. Exodus helps our new neighbors meet basic needs, but also provide services including social and medical services, English language training, and employment services. Their goal is to help members of our community achieve self sufficiency in their new home. With the cuts and changes in US immigration policy, there has been a severe cut in funding, but legal refugees continue to arrive.

We ask that you give generously to support their important work that is an action we can take to answer God's commandment that we love our neighbors as ourselves. Change and dollar bills in the offering plate will be designated for the mission of the month. Larger bills should be put in the "mission offering" envelopes in the pew and put in the offering plate. Checks should have Exodus marked in the memo line and made out to the church. We appreciate your help. Thank you for your support.



Pantry Items of the Month

During April, we are collecting the following items:
canned ravioli, cereal, soup, pasta and deodorant.
- Betty Schnur

Monthly Food Donations

We had another excellent month of food donations in February. The volunteers who staff the pantry at Second Presbyterian Church (the local agent for Gleaners) are always appreciative and complimentary, but are especially so this year due to our large donations. Our donations help the needy and are appreciated.

Summer Alternative Worship Series

As our Lenten Worship Series draws to a close, we have the opportunity to look forward to our next Alternative Worship Series that will take place during the summer. Be a part of the dreaming, designing, and planning for the Summer Series. Our first meeting will be Wednesday, April 10th at 5:30pm in the church library. If you want to help plan but cannot make this first meeting, please contact Lianna Campos at lcampos33@gmail.com or 317-954-1601.



1857 Society Celebration – May 3rd

Our 1857 Society is off to a strong start! It's composed of church members and friends who plan to support the church in their end-of-life financial planning. While the initial meeting won't be held until May 3, there are already 9 members who have turned in commitment forms, and some funds have been received. We'd love to have you join us! If you'd like to help to assure the financial strength of First Congregational far into the future, please consider filling out and turning in a commitment form [forms are available from the office or on the bulletin board in the hallway just inside the garden door]. If you have an interest but aren't ready to commit, please join those of us who already have at our initial luncheon at noon on Friday May 3 at Marquette Manor. We'll have a good meal and hear an outstanding, outside speaker, the Rev. Dr. Bill Enright. The event is complimentary and we encourage all who have even a slight interest or curiosity to attend. We think that they'll be glad they did. Members and guests should watch for the upcoming notice to make reservations. For your questions now, see a member of the Foundation Board.

- Bill Gillette for the Foundation



Immigration: A Just Peace Issue

The national 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.

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.

The [most violent countries](#) in the world, from whence many refugees come, and the violence experienced there are 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 experienced 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, adopting several resolutions addressing different aspects of the immigration crisis.

- The above paragraphs are from a paper by Michael Neuroth. The entire paper can be accessed here:

http://www.ucc.org/a_just_peace_call_to_address_root_causes_of_immigration

The Bible's teaching is clear:

When the alien resides with you in your land, you shall not oppress the alien. The alien who resides with you shall be to you as the citizen among you; you shall love the alien as yourself, for you were aliens in the land of Egypt: I am the Lord your God.
Leviticus 19:33-34

The April Mission of the Month is Exodus Refugee Immigration in Indianapolis. We have supported them for many years, and our own Sue Chapman has served as a member of their Board. As you know, most of the refugees settled in Indianapolis are from Burma, El Salvador, Syria, and Africa. Please support this offering generously, as part of our new formal commitment to being a Just Peace church. Thank you!

- Janet Selby

Mental Health Team

The Interfaith Coalition for Mental Health presents their fourth event of the Spring 2019 Series: How Faith Communities Become Resources. The *How to Support a Support Group: Addictions and Mental Illness* luncheon at the Indiana Interchurch Center will provide different resources about mental illness prevention and creating safe communities.

Wednesday, April 17th, 12:00 – 1:30 p.m.
Indiana Interchurch Center
1100 W 42nd St
Indianapolis, IN 46208

Admission fee: \$5. Reservations can be made at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/how-to-support-a-support-group-addictions-and-mental-illness-tickets-53923129532?aff=erellivmlt>



- Pat Larracey and Sandy Wood

Update on “Days for Girls” Project

The IN-YK Conference and Outreach & Service project for putting together 100 menstrual hygiene kits for girls in developing countries is well under way. The response has been gratifying. Cutters are preparing fabric, sewers are sewing shields, pads and drawstring bags, and suppliers have been shopping or checking their own stashes. We would welcome more cutters and sewers.



We now have enough Ziploc freezer bags and travel-size soaps thanks to some generous donations! 120 pairs of panties are on order with donated funds. We still need 22 more pairs or money to buy them. We have received a few sets that are not 100% cotton which we cannot use. If you donated Felina or Calvin Klein brands of this type, please see if you can exchange them. We need 100% cotton, dark but pretty colors, and no bikinis or boy cuts. We expect to receive more fabric donations soon but still may need to purchase some more, likely flannel. So we are still accepting monetary donations

designated for “Days for Girls.” We also need 50 more wash cloths (good quality, regular size in dark, but pretty colors, also 100% cotton). Kohl's and Target are good sources for those.

We'll keep you posted on the progress of the project, and thanks for your support. I will have cut fabric sets for shields to hand off to sewers each Sunday and also prepared flannel.

- Sue Chapman

Social Media

As FCC works to grow the church and spread its message of peace, love, and belonging, the council is looking to social media to help move that process along. In the coming months, the social media team will be ramping up efforts on the church's social media platforms. We are looking to engage the congregation and tell the community and potential new members what we are all about.

Social media are mostly free platforms and we are hoping to take full advantage of this to spread the word about the amazing community we have here at FCC. We need to meet people where they are, and for many people that's on social media! The social media team has recently launched a new Instagram page for the church, and has talked about new ways to engage with people on the church's existing Facebook account.

So how can you help?

- 1) If you are not already active on Facebook and Instagram, we invite you to try it out! You can use Facebook on any desktop, laptop, tablet, or smartphone. Instagram is a smartphone-only application. They are both free to download in your phone's app store (whether you use Apple or Android). Then follow the instructions in the app to create your profile.
- 2) LIKE and FOLLOW the church's social media accounts (linked below).
- 3) Engage with the church's accounts; like and comment on pictures and posts.
- 4) Send in content to share on the FCC social media accounts. We want to use the FCC Facebook and Instagram pages to show people what we are all about, and what better way than to share pictures, videos, and stories sent in by the congregation?!



Snap a picture during service, during a church sponsored event, or when getting together for fellowship with other members of the congregation. Our people are what make us so special, let's share our family with the people of Indianapolis!

All you will have to do is email in your pictures or short video clips to socialmedia@fcindy.org and the social media team will do the rest! (please include a short

description so we can write a caption)

Thanks for helping us spread the word about FCC and all we have to offer!

FCC's Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/FirstCongregationalUCCIndy/>

FCC's Instagram : @fc_indy (you'll want to enter that into the search function of Instagram, then you can click on the "Follow" button)

- Aniseh Ebbini

Green Team: Sustainable Gardening

The following is extracted from the article 'Sustainable Gardening: It's All the Rage!' by E. Vinje, published at PlanetNatural.com.

A 1987 United Nations report on sustainable development defined it as, "... design, construction, operations and maintenance practices that meet the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs."

Following are some principles of sustainable gardening.



Compost

Composting has the most impact of any sustainable gardening practice. It recycles and enriches. It benefits your soil and your family at the same time. Composting yard and garden wastes means less going to the landfill and more organic material for your soil. Composting can be as simple as raking leaves over your garden

when you put it to winter bed or as specific as indoor food composting. Whatever you're growing: vegetables, lawns, flowers, shrubs, or fruit trees, composting induces vibrant,

fortifying change while it reduces waste. Composting practices which make soils more friable also help to conserve water. The planting of green manures – cover crops like rye, oats and hairy vetch that are composted directly into soils — add nitrogen and other nutrients and also help prevent erosion during spring and fall runoff.

Maintenance

How you care for your garden goes a long way towards attaining sustainability. Cultivating between plants with a long hoe suppresses weeds and also aerates your soil. Avoid using chemical herbicides and toxic pesticides that extract a toll on the environment and you. Instead, follow [organic weed](#) and [pest control methods](#). There's both health and knowledge benefits to getting down on your knees and pulling weeds. Using [beneficial insects](#) to control pests not only benefits your garden, it can become a valuable lesson in natural science for your children.

Grow Native, Climate-Appropriate Plants

Nature has designed the perfect plant for your micro-climate: the one that is native to your area. Check natural areas and local garden experts for plants that thrive in your conditions. For vegetables, you already chose plants that mature during your area's growing season. Also, ensure vegetables are hardy and high-yielding inside your area's climatic, prevailing soil and elevation conditions. This means you'll use less soil additives and supplements, less water, at less overall effort.

Save Seed

Seed saving brings you more in-tune with your plants and assures that the seed you'll plant next season has done well this season. Start with the easiest seeds to save: peas, beans, peppers, tomatoes; then work from there. Harvest seed from dried flowers. Scout fields and woodlands for harvest-able native plants and grasses. Learn to identify weeds and invasive plants to prevent accidentally importing them to your landscape. Few experiences are as gratifying as watching a new season's growth from seed you grew, harvested and cured.

Garden Design

Planners and designers consider all resource-conserving principles to protect their soil and plants. American farmers helped end the Dust Bowl by planting shelter belts and contour farming. The sustainable gardener uses the same principles: protect the soil, rotate crops, save water to minimize impact. For walks, walls or decks, and for building soils, look for recycled, environmentally friendly materials. And there's a ripple effect when you buy sustainable, organic products from sustainable gardening businesses. Their success — and yours — encourages more gardeners to follow the path of sustainability even as it immediately rewards the environment.

Consider where to place your plants. Get smart on companion planting; it's an easy way to control pests and encourage growth. The more knowledge you have about plants and gardening, the better your landscape design.

Conserving Water Resources

Water is precious and needs to be protected for quality as well as quantity. Use rain barrels and collection systems to minimize draw-down of municipal or private sources. Protect water quality by avoiding herbicides or pesticides that contaminate it as they percolate through the soil and return to the water supply. Water that drains away is wasted. Control runoff with permeable soils. Use mulch and ground covers to help soils hold water. Design "rain gardens," with terraces, holding pools and raised beds to collect rainwater.

Aim for using only the water nature provides, in the form of rain and runoff. Harvest and store it until needed. Sprinkling systems are wasteful (through evaporation) and most plants, excluding ferns and other humidity lovers, don't do as well watered with sprinklers.

Last, Not Least

The greatest tool you can use to pursue the goal of sustainability is knowledge. And the largest effect you can have on sustainability is to share that knowledge. That's a big part of making gardens and landscapes sustainable: passing on what you know.

- Rich Gibson, Green Team Chair

Coming This Summer...Something New...Something Fun!

The Board of Witness and Welcome is planning an outreach experience for young families of our church and community. We will sponsor three Parents' Nights Out during the summer months.

For a small fee covering costs of pizza, activities, a movie, and a safe place for children up to age 12, parents may drop off their children at FCC from 5-9 p.m. and then go out for dinner, shopping or just together time.

By May 1 we will be seeking volunteers who are willing to serve in this outreach mission. In order to meet our Safe Church guidelines, background checks will be needed for any volunteers. Please consider serving FCC in this new and welcoming project. More information will be published starting Easter Sunday.



- Board of Witness and Welcome, Bob Cook & Aniseh Ebbini



First Congregational's Historic Roots in Indy: On Sunday, April 7, Marion Harcourt, our most tenured member, will give a presentation during the Adult Ed hour. Following worship, we'll have a light lunch at church and then board a bus for Marion's tour of historic sites connected to FCC's 162 years in Indy. A sign-up sheet is available, and donations to cover the cost of the event are gratefully accepted!

Jesus Christ Superstar Karaoke: Kick off Holy Week a day early – on Saturday, April 13, from 2-4, we'll be showing Jesus Christ Superstar, and encouraging those who want to sing along. Also, you can learn about the Gospel scriptures which most of the songs are based on.

FCC's Got Talent (Again) (Still): Save the date and start planning how you might participate on Friday, October 4 at 7 pm. While music plays a big part in this event, we will also showcase other skills and talents among our diverse congregation. More info to come!

These events are sponsored by Care & Connections, and there will be more to come. Questions? Contact Wendy Baldwin.

Annual Spring Work Day – Saturday, April 27, 9:30-noon

Please join us for fellowship and sweat equity on Saturday, 4/27, for our annual spring yard cleanup. There will be mulch to spread, weeds to pull, undergrowth to trim, and whatever else is needed to help spruce up our grounds.

Spring Work Day



This is a great way to give to the church, share camaraderie, and have a great feeling of accomplishment. The more, the merrier, and we'll find a task for you, no matter what your experience level is! Please bring your favorite outdoor work tools, especially gloves.

Please contact Wendy Baldwin if you are interested in coming.

Easter Flowers

Easter is a time of renewal and what better way to help celebrate Easter than with Springtime flowers. You can choose a Lily, hyacinth, tulip or daffodil. The cost per plant is \$10.00. To place an order, see the weekly bulletin insert or email Sally Coombs at sallysews73@gmail.com.

Deadline: April 14, 2019

Display: April 21, 2019



Mindful Movement for Stress Reduction

Every moment can be a mindful moment.

We're trying a **new day** for Mindful Movement in the month of April. Hopefully this will work with more schedules and you can join us in the church parlor on Wednesdays, April 10th & 24th at 9:30 a.m. In Mindful Movement, we **slow down**, **quiet the chatter** of our minds, and **mindfully take notice** of the little things, like the sound of our **breath**, the **ground** underneath us, the ways we **feel** each movement of the body, the **silence**, and the **peace** that settles in our body, mind, and spirit.



In yoga, I have often heard teachers say, "root down to rise up." Let us practice this intention as we root down through the remainder of the Lenten season and prepare for the joy that is found in the risen Christ. The promise of the resurrection brings renewal, rebirth, and a reconnecting with the wholeness that is found when you unite mind, body, and spirit with the One God who promises to be with us in both the desert and in the resurrection.

- Mindful Movement is a *donation-based class*.
- Please wear loose, comfortable clothing.
- We have a limited number of yoga mats available. If you have one, please bring it, but if you don't, please don't let that stop you from coming. We've got you covered.
- Chairs are also available for those more comfortable participating in a chair.
- Shannon Abbott

Building the Neighborhood: Reflections Upon our Annual Gathering



"Which of these three, do you think, was a neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of the robbers?" He said, "The one who showed him mercy." Jesus said to him, "Go and do likewise." Luke 10:36-37 (NRSV)

This past week our Annual Gathering Planning Team announced its opening of registration under the theme of Building the Neighborhood. I wanted to share some reflections upon this theme and our sacred gathered time together this coming June. Fred Rogers is famous for having said "Always look for the helpers. There will always be helpers." Having just made my way through the recent documentary on Fred Rogers' life and ministry (with tears shed of course), this particular quote seems to always resonate with me. While our theme is not necessarily a "Mr. Rogers" theme per se, it does have some overtones of his work and ministry. During hard times in this country, it was his voice that taught generations of children what it means to both love a neighbor and need a neighbor. Reflecting upon loving a neighbor and needing a neighbor stands at the heart of our conference annual gathering this year. Under the guiding scripture of the Good Samaritan story, we are reminded that there are helpers along the way when there is suffering, pain, or injury to God's beloved humanity. Sometimes we are the ones to offer care and help. Other times we are the one who has been wounded and is in need of a neighbor to carry them to a safe inn of respite. In the Church, this form of loving a neighbor or needing a neighbor has been expressed and deepened through various forms of ministries from outreach, poverty elimination, creation care, youth ministry, discipleship, LGBTQ inclusion, and on. Not every one of our congregations expresses or engages in these questions around neighbors in the same way. And, that is the beauty. With God's help, together, we are building the neighborhood....the kin-dom of God.....as we bring each of our own gifts of the Gospel to this task. I am deeply grateful for an Annual Gathering Planning Team who worked extra hard at seeking to find ways to include as many of our different expressions of God's church as possible in being a part of the conversation about how we need one another as neighbors. This means that if you are a conservative church that there will be something for you at this gathering. This means that if you are a liberal church that there will be something for you at this gathering. And while those are somewhat arbitrary lines of demarcation in a rather divided society, we as a conference are attempting to share a different narrative than our national one. We seek unity among division, hope among despair, and dialogue and active listening rather than domineering over others. There is great hope in building the neighborhood together in spite of our differences. It demonstrates our willingness to stay at the table even when it would seem easy to give into our fight or flight mechanism and walk away. There is great hope for our future in this conference as we continue to have these crucial conversations about what it means to be the people of God in this time and place. And so....it is with all of this in mind that I invite you to join me, your board of directors, and your siblings in Christ for a wonderful two days of reflection upon loving and needing a neighbor. We will be invited into amazing worship and preaching, dynamic workshops and conversation opportunities, and a wee bit of business. I look forward to seeing you there and may God's grace continue to surround you as you serve in ministry within your communities.

- Rev. Chad R. Abbott, Conference Minister

**** To register or find out more about the IKC Annual Gathering, go to:**
<http://events.r20.constantcontact.com/register/event?oeidk=a07eg4hykke4bfe9b92&llr=iby9x9dab>, or contact the IKC office at (317)924-1395. **



Volunteers Needed for IKC Annual Gathering

In coordination with the events of the Indiana-Kentucky Conference 2019 Annual Gathering, we look forward to strengthening partnerships and deepening our commitment together in Christ's mission. This year, to lessen the burden on Frieden's UCC volunteers, the Conference is calling upon all the churches of the Southeast Association to supply hands for the work.

We are seeking 1-3 volunteers from First Congregational during the Gathering held at Frieden's UCC (Greenwood) May 30th – June 1st. Volunteers from Friedens will manage the events for Education Day on Thursday. On Friday, volunteers will be divided into two shifts, morning and evening. Saturday there will only be one shift, in the morning. Volunteers are not required to staff the full shift if they are not able, and folks may split shifts.

- Volunteers should NOT be: delegates, conference staff, paying visitors, or clergy representatives.

No special skills are required for volunteers, but anyone with technology experience should describe that in the comment section. Lunch will be provided for volunteers, so please note any dietary restrictions.

Please sign up no later than April 15th. If you have any questions about volunteering at the IKC Annual Gathering, please contact Dakota Roberts at (317) 789-5066 or droberts@eden.edu

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

NIAGARA ABRAHAMIC TRADITIONS DINNER 2019

Saturday
April 6th, 2019
6:30 to 9:00 PM

Niagara Foundation cordially invites you to the
Abrahamic Traditions Dinner
Venue: Second Presbyterian Church
7700 N. Meridian Street
Indianapolis IN, 46260

Free Event
Kindly RSVP by April 2nd, 2019
at cenk@niagarafoundation.org

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United Church of Christ

Healing for our Lives; Celebrating Women in Ministry

What a wonderful way to observe Good Friday by celebrating the width and breadth of ministerial female leadership. The Healing for Our Lives event will gather female ministers, from all contexts of ministry, in and around the Indianapolis area, to share in a worship celebration and fellowship around tables with a catered meal.

The inspiring worship experience will include powerful liturgy, moving music, and three dynamic female preachers from varying backgrounds and seasons of ministry. The site for the event, Castleton United Methodist Church, is significant as this congregation is in its initial months of welcoming its first female lead pastor.



Preachers

Rev. Libby Davis-Manning (Lutheran)

Pastor Libby Davis Manning was ordained in Word and Sacrament ministry in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and serves as associate director of the Wabash Pastoral Leadership Program, coordinator of the national Early Career Initiative of Lilly Endowment, and consultant to the Religion Division of Lilly Endowment. She is married to the Rev. Matthew Manning and enjoys the divine duet of ministry and motherhood to three teenagers aged 15, 15, and 17. They live on a small rural Indiana hobby farm in Lapel, IN where the family, along with all four grandparents, work together to tend bees, raises turkeys and chickens, and maintain beautiful flower and vegetable gardens.

Rev. Rae Karim (Disciples of Christ)

Raenisha Karim, also known as Rae, is an author, preacher, creative and entrepreneur based in Indianapolis, Indiana. The life experience she pours into her writings has made her highly sought after on the city's poetry and literary scenes. It is that same experience that gives Rae such an effective and powerful ministry regardless of the age, race or socioeconomic background of her audience. Rae currently serves as Chapel Director at Christian Theological Seminary, where she received her Master of Divinity degree. She is also the founder of Good Grief Now™, a grassroots organization that helps people navigate grief in new ways.

Rev. Mihee Kim-Kort (Presbyterian and Princeton grad)

Mihee Kim-Kort is a Presbyterian minister, agitator, speaker, writer, and slinger of hopeful stories about faith and church. Her writing and commentary can be found at *TIME*, *BBC World Service*, *USA Today*, *Huffington Post*, *Christian Century*, *On Being*, *Sojourners*, and *Faith and Leadership*. She is a PhD student in Religious Studies at Indiana University, where she and her Presbyterian minister-spouse live with their three kids in Hoosier country.

Planning Team

Rev. Dr. Sarah Griffith Lund (Pastor- First Congregational UCC and Princeton grad)

Rev. Heather Apel (Assistant to the Bishop for Leadership, Indiana-Kentucky Synod)

Rev. Dr. Aleze M. Fulbright (Conference Superintendent, Indiana United Methodist Churches)

Event Details & Registration

When: Friday, April 19, at 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Where: [Castleton United Methodist Church](#), Indianapolis, Indiana

Cost: \$10 (includes meals)

Register here: <https://app.certain.com/profile/form/index.cfm?PKformID=0x2975743abcd>



Please join us for the Faith & Action Spring Conference. Together we'll discover and share ways to "Push Back Poverty" in Indianapolis.

Christian Theological Seminary, with support from the **Mike and Sue Smith Family Fund** and **Lumina Foundation**, is facilitating the Faith & Action Project to inspire collaboration among individuals, faith communities, nonprofits and government agencies to reduce area poverty.

We'll gather at Eastern Star Church for a morning of insights anchored by keynote speaker Father Greg Boyle. A dynamic storyteller, Boyle is a Jesuit priest and founder of Homeboy Industries in Los Angeles, the largest gang intervention, rehabilitation, and re-entry program in the world. His book, *Tattoos on the Heart: The Power of Boundless Compassion*, is a New York Times bestseller. He'll share the platform with two participants in Homeboy programs.

Be sure to invite friends from your church, colleagues and coworkers, peers in service organizations and on boards, and anyone else who might be interested.

Please note that attendance at the Conference is a prerequisite for organizations applying for a Faith & Action grant.

Register at: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/push-back-poverty-with-faith-action-2019-tickets-57739238617>

Meridian Hills Cooperative School: Spring Cleaning Together

Springtime can bring thoughts of flowers, rain and warmer weather. For some it means Spring Cleaning, a chance to overhaul, redo, and restock. While I was thinking about the Spring Cleaning concept, I began thinking about children and cleaning. I thought about my own childhood, my children and the children at Meridian Hills. And then my mind went straight to that word, Chores. It's not a bad word. But when said with attitude and angst, it can conjure up a whole host of emotions, struggles and history. Shifting the focus from thinking of Chores as a struggle/battleground, try looking at it through the lens of Teaching Lifelong Skills.



When my children were young, I used to call Chores 'Together Tasks'. I would show them how to do something and then we would do them together. After all, if No one ever showed you how to make a bed, do laundry or mow the grass, how would you know how to do it..? In showing children how to do tasks/skills, we are teaching them how to be self-sufficient - our ultimate goal. Young children are eager to learn and help. We need to capitalize on that! Waiting until they are older will make this all more challenging and frustrating for everyone.

Here are some thoughts to keep in mind when doing Chores with young children:

- Slow down-we adults are Always in a rush to get items checked off our list and move onto the next item. Not so much for children. They are in this for the experience and because they are doing it with you. This part is key to a child. In slowing down, the process will also take longer so make sure to factor that timing in. When we bring in children to help us, remember also that Their version of clean and organized is Very different from ours. Adults may need to alter their expectations of a 'perfectly cleaned/organized house' when they have little helpers.
- Make a Mess, Clean it up-avoid 'value judgement' when this happens. Remember they are young and aren't as coordinated as we are. Treat the mess/spill as a natural consequence and clean it up. Verbalized what you are doing so the child sees and hears how we go about cleaning up. Some of you have heard me do this in the classroom through the years. Also make sure You verbalize when You make a mess/spill. It is So important for children to see that We make mistakes daily. It's what we do with the mistake and how we handle it that is so impactful.
- "Clean Up Fairy"...IF you do lots of your cleaning and tidying up while children are napping and after they have gone to sleep at night they will not see the direct connection between having ALL their toys out and then having them ALL back in their place. They will just assume that there is a "Clean Up Fairy" that takes care of it all. Set up a time that works best for your family to clean up toys etc. Maybe it is before bedtime, after dinner, after nap; decide which if any projects get to stay up to be added to later/next day and be ready to alter if the system isn't working and as they grow.
- Photo Job Charts-some tasks can be done on a rotation basis. For those jobs you could have a photo with the corresponding job and the child's name on it. Similar to what I have done in the Robin's class with our job chart. Coming up with names for jobs can be fun as well, i.e. "Kitchen Manager"-table setting/clearing... "KP" Kitchen Patrol-rinse/load dishes OR perhaps combine those two and that is one job for the week; "Wardrobe (or Clothing) Manager"-Laundry Sorter or carrying baskets to/from laundry; "Botanist"-Water Plants In/Out; "Animal Trainer"-Feed/Water/Walk Pets; "Garbage King/Queen"-empties waste baskets inside before trash day, takes out/brings back trash/recycle bins. Choose tasks that apply to your family and that work well with your child's age. Don't forget to add your name/face to the job chart as well. When children see that you do chores as well they see it as a family taking care of its home and belongings.

Enjoy Your Spring, Your Children and maybe even some Cleaning ;)

Hugs to All,

Linda Foley, Acting Director of Meridian Hills Cooperative Nursery School & Kindergarten

Announcements

Family Promise Clothing Drive not until August. For those of you used to spring and fall clothing drives, this year Family Promise is just doing one in August. So we will not be doing a big push this spring. If you are doing spring cleaning and can't save donations at home, we will have a place to store them at church. Just bring them in in tall white trash bags that are securely tied, and we'll keep them here.

Men's Lunch: This lunch and discussion gathering for men of First Congregational meets at various restaurants in the greater Indianapolis area. They meet every other Thursday at 1 p.m. This month they will meet on **April 4th and 18th**. Please contact Randy Walker at (317) 796-2081 or aa28977rwalker@gmail.com for information.

Sacred Organ Music on Easter Sunday – April 21st, Special guest organist Charles Manning.

May Colony Submission Deadline: Please have your submissions sent to Shannon by Monday, **April 15th**. Just remember, taxes and Colony articles are due the same day. ☺

Circle IV Book Discussion: Circle IV will be meeting at the home of Karen Walker on Tuesday, **April 16th** at 1:30 pm. We are finishing the Robert Reich book. All are welcome to join us. Feel free to carpool. For further information, contact Karen Walker at (317)319-8959 or karen.e.d.walker@gmail.com.

Women's Lunch Bunch: All women of the church are invited to get together once a month for lunch, friendship, and fellowship. This month we will meet on Thursday, **April 25th** at 11:45 a.m. For any questions or for more information please contact Sue Chapman at 317-259-1806 or carolsuech59@gmail.com.

Poems & Stories: The Mental Health Team is asking for people to share poems and stories on the topic of "LGBTQ and Mental Health." We are collecting these through May 19. Booklets will be assembled to give to visitors to our booth at the PRIDE Festival. Entries may be emailed to Brandi Pudlo: btpudlo@knox.edu. If you would like to send a draft for proof-reading before a final copy is printed, please send an email with the draft by May 1st.

Flower Calendar: The 2019 Flower Calendar is on the bulletin board by the garden doors. Cooperstown be for any occasion. Flowers can come from the store, florist or from your garden. The cost is \$25.00 from our florist. Any questions, please email Sally Coombs at sallysews73@gmail.com or call 317-446-2853. You can also let Shannon Abbott know the occasion at shannon@fcindy.org or call the church office at 317-257-5397.

The Fawn

By Mary Oliver

*Sunday morning and mellow as precious
metal
The church bells rang, but I went
To the woods instead.
A fawn, too new
For fear, rose from the grass
And stood with its spots blazing,
And knowing no way but words,
No trick but music,
I sang to him.
He listened.
His small hooves struck the grass.
Oh what is holiness?
The fawn came closer,
Walked to my hands, to my knees.
I did not touch him.
I only sang, and when the doe came back
Calling out to him dolefully
And he turned and followed her into the trees,
Still I sang,
Not knowing how to end such a joyful text,
Until far off the bells once more tipped and tumbled
And rang through the morning, announcing
The going forth of the blessed.*



Crista Forest, "First Spring"

Financial Update

When We Give, We Reach Out With Helping Hands

Here are the financial results for the first two months of 2019.

1. Current Year Actual vs Budget Summary 1/1/2019 through 2/28/2019 Using Budget 1

Category	1/1/2019 Actual	- Budget	2/28/2019 Difference
INCOME	52,278	55,210	-2,933
M. Unrestricted Contributions	52,278	55,210	-2,933
M.01 Pledged Offerings	43,096	44,622	-1,526
M.02 UnPledged Offerings	2,793	4,200	-1,406
M.03 Rollover Prior Year Surplus_D...	4,766	4,766	0
M.04 Foundation - Endowment Fund...	0	0	0
M.05 Foundation - Minister Fund Draw	0	0	0
M.06 Foundation - Trad. Music Fund...	0	0	0
M.07. Transfer from Youth Fund	0	0	0
M.08 Other Transfers from Restr Ac...	1,623	1,623	0
EXPENSES	45,197	47,834	2,637
A. Pastoral Leadership	20,754	22,651	1,897
B. Worship & Faith	6,451	7,036	585
C. Care & Connections	173	88	-85
D. Witness & Welcome	50	116	66
E. Outreach & Service	2,909	2,918	9
F. Trustees	57	0	-57
G. Administration & Operations	3,387	3,607	221
H. House & Grounds	10,382	10,394	11
I. Miscellaneous	1,034	1,024	-10
Net Difference:	7,081	7,376	-296

Highlights:

Overall, we are off to a good start. As of February 28:

- Income of \$52,300 exceeded expenses of \$45,200.
- We were essentially on budget. Income was \$2,900 below budget and expenses were \$2,600 below budget.
- The bank account was strong at \$87,000 and overall net position [(cash + investments) – obligations] was positive.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Jim Lootens, Treasurer - lootens.jb@gmail.com