

 FirstCongregationalUCCIndy

 Forward



FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

E-pistle for the Week of August 1, 2019

Dear First Congregational,

The Universal Christ is Richard Rohr's newest book (<https://universalchrist.cac.org/>). I will be preaching this Sunday and connecting our scripture lesson with Rohr's view of the "Universal Christ." Here at First Congregational, we value pushing the edges of our understanding of theology, and asking the deeper questions of faith. I look forward to exploring with you the ways in which Jesus Christ can be experienced in a universal way. Rohr says, "*Incarnation is the oldest Christian story. Through Christ, God is pouring God's self into all creation. To be Christian, then, is to see Christ in every thing.*"

I love how our congregational tradition values the forward journey of faith. There might not be certainties about where the journey ends. We find joy in the journey itself, on the road, traveling together. Thank you for being on this journey of faith with me and with others at First Congregational. We are not alone on the journey.

Blessings,

Pastor Sarah

Worship

Adult Class - 9:45 a.m.

August 4 - We will continue to read and discuss the book *Anxious to Talk About It; Helping White Christians Talk Faithfully About Racism*.

Sunday Worship Service - 11:00 a.m.

Pastor Sarah will preach on "The Universal Christ."

Scripture: Colossians 3:1-11

What's Happening at FCC

Financial Donations: A Word from Our Financial Secretary

Did you recently make a donation from your Merrill Lynch account? If so, please contact George Meier, our Financial Secretary, at (317) 526-2235 or garyng@comcast.net for proper records. Thank you.

Upcoming Labyrinth Walks



FCC Spiritual Explorers will focus on walking local labyrinths on **four Sundays: August 11, September 8, October 13, and November 24**. On Sunday, August 11, we will meet at St. Peter's UCC (Carmel, IN) at 1:30pm to learn more about the labyrinth and to walk the path of the labyrinth. Please mark your calendars.



August 22, 2019 at 4:30pm
Noblesville First United Methodist Church
2051 Monument St. Noblesville, IN 46060

Opportunity with Senator Young! August 22 - Please register!

The Bread for the World organization is sponsoring a town hall focusing on domestic hunger issues, particularly in regard to children. There will be several speakers

highlighting issues and impacts related to hunger throughout childhood (see brochure), and Senator Young will also speak to the topic. He has been a great sponsor of aid packages for fighting childhood hunger globally. We would like to have at least 10 people from our congregation attend this event to learn and to show support and encouragement for fighting childhood hunger domestically! We will be arranging car pools. Please register so they have a good count! - there is a link below and there is a map at the link. For any questions, please call Karen Walker at 317-319-8950. More will be shared in the weeks leading up to the event.

Help hungry Hoosier kids!

- Indiana ranks 42nd in infant mortality.
- 1 in 6 Hoosier children are food insecure.
- Food insecurity is rampant on college campuses.

Event Purposes:

1. Create urgency to better address child hunger in Indiana, and improve their lives.
2. Deepen engagement of more Hoosiers in solutions to child hunger.

Event Program:

- Dr. Wade Clapp, Chair of Pediatrics, IU School of Medicine, on nutrition & infant mortality
- Andrew Hartley, Superintendent, Plymouth Schools, on good nutrition and academic success
- Dr. Harriet Giles, Auburn Univ Hunger Solutions Institute on hunger on college campuses
- Sen. Todd Young on the reality of a Fair Shot for All Children related to hunger issues
- Dave Miner with a call to action

Sponsored by Bread for the World – Indiana

Register to attend:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/a-fair-shot-for-all-children-tickets-64610049397?ref=eios>

Dear Friends of Exodus Refugee Services

Trump administration officials are considering the unprecedented step of shutting down refugee resettlement in 2020. After already setting the lowest goal in the program's history - only 30,000 refugees in 2019 - some officials have proposed admitting ZERO. Cutting the program further at a time when record numbers of people are fleeing for their lives is unjustifiable. Even as we fight this cruel proposal to decimate the US refugee resettlement program, Exodus continues to serve the many refugees who already call Indianapolis

home. We are committed, we are prepared, and with your help we will keep making Indianapolis a haven of freedom and safety for all. CALL YOUR SENATORS & REPRESENTATIVE TODAY: Call 202-224-3121 to be connected to your 2 Senators and 1 Representative.

Green Team Tip

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



Family Promise Clothing Drive, August 2-18

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 year. Bring clothing donations to the church in tall white trash bags that are securely tied. If you don't have white kitchen trash bags, we have some at church. Please consider donating to this worthwhile ministry.

Last fall we collected 60 bags of clothing for this clothing drive. This year we hope to equal or surpass that amount. Family Promise usually has 2 clothing drives yearly, 1 in spring and 1 in fall, but this year they are focusing on only 1 drive so we need get as many bags as we can to help them out!

Food Donations for the Northside Pantry

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

August Mission of the Month: CEPAD (The Council of Christian Churches in Nicaragua)

CEPAD is an organization of Nicaraguan churches that was founded in 1972 by Dr. Gustavo Parajón in response to a major earthquake. Since then its roll has expanded. In addition to aiding during natural disasters, CEPAD now helps Nicaraguans escape from cycles of poverty and hunger. Access to basic services is often nonexistent, especially in rural areas. Women and the elderly are among the most disadvantaged. CEPAD provides training in sustainable agriculture, economic development for women, community organization and education. CEPAD runs a Christian radio station and attends to immigrants and refugees who are traveling through Nicaragua. Currently, by training given to pastors, communities can heal from the emotional and physical trauma of this past year. First Congregational Church members participate in the program for those who wish to send delegations and form partnerships to help local communities. Your donation will

assist CEPAD in continuing these important programs.

Pantry Items of the Month



During August we are collecting the following items: canned peaches and pears, canned beans, ramen noodles and white bathroom tissue.

Pastoral Care

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

THIS WEEK AT FIRST CONGREGATIONAL

Saturday, August 3	1:00 p.m.	Green Team Meeting
Sunday, August 4	9:45 a.m.	Sunday Adult Class
Sunday, August 4	11:00 a.m.	Worship – New Member Sunday
Sunday, August 4	12:30 p.m.	Just Peace Meeting
Wednesday, August 7	7:00 p.m.	Trustees Meeting
Thursday, August 8	1:00 p.m.	Men’s Lunch
Saturday, August 10	10:30 a.m.	Bell Choir Rehearsal
Sunday, August 11	9:45 a.m.	Sunday Adult Class
Sunday, August 11	11:00 a.m.	Worship
Sunday, August 11	12:15 p.m.	Worship & Faith Meeting
Sunday, August 11	1:30 p.m.	Spiritual Explorers Labyrinth Walk @ St. Peter’s UCC