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e-pistle for the week of February 8, 2018

Minister's Message

Life gets complicated. It always has been: in college people take classes to prepare for careers and to shape their lives and engage in the complicated processes of finding a life partner. It used to be that the June after graduation one was expected to get married. This really is not the case any more (although it still happens), but at college there are a lot of different life processes all going on at once. The same when we have children. The same when one retires. Complications are part of life!

At this time in the life of the church:

Board and team members (and anybody else!) will gather this Saturday for empowerment and initial organization. We will come out of that meeting with a clearer understanding of the work of the Boards, initial leadership and hopefully some confidence in going forward. It is an important meeting---every Board has members on them who have never served on a church board before.

We celebrate the last Sunday of Epiphany, the season of the church year where we look at how Christ is manifested in the world. Our exact sermon series is on what it means to be church and this Sunday we will look at being light to the world and what that means.

The New Creation worship services are finishing up a series on different ways of engaging with God. We've looked at playing with creativity and listening in silence. This Sunday we look at the lives of people who have influenced us, shaped our lives with the examples of how their lives were shaped by God. We start out with Duke Ellington, Jane Parker Huber and John Newton, and will go from there.

And next Wednesday we celebrate Valentine's Day and Ash Wednesday. How we will put those together is going to be a bit of a complication (love hurts? Any number of Roy Orbison songs tie together contrition and love, like 'I've done a bad, bad, thing'). We will sing, chant and pray in the Taize style, offer ashes as a sign of spiritual renewal and communion as a sign of grace. And Lent begins.

Complicated? I suspect so. But complications are a sign of life!

-Rev. Michael Montgomery PhD.

Save the Date!

A Board Retreat will take place on Saturday, February 10 from 10:00 until 1:00. Coffee and light snacks will be served.

Lenten Breakfasts

The Southeastern Association of the Indiana Kentucky Conference is once again sponsoring a series of 'Men's Breakfasts' on Saturday mornings at 8 a.m. at different churches. Each breakfast includes a meal, a devotion and an offering that will go to support a ministry of the host church. The first breakfast will be:

Saturday, February 17

St. John (Cumberland) UCC
11910 E. Prospect St.
Indianapolis, IN 46239

Saturday, February 24

Ellenberger UCC
5520 E. 10th Street
Indianapolis, IN

Please note: we will host on Saturday, March 17.

Worship for Sunday

Adult Class - 9:45 a.m.

Our topic this week will be " Blessed are the Peacemakers - Part I ." Meet in the library.

Traditional Service - 11:00 a.m.

A Place of Light. Based on 2 Corinthians 4:3-6 and Mark 9:2-9. In times when it seems like the night rises among us, the insights Paul and the gospels have about Jesus being a source of light for our lives seems particularly important. What does it mean for the church to be a place of light, where we see more clearly and are a source of light for the world?

New Creation - 5:30 p.m.

We continue our theme of expressing our devotion to God by looking at how other people's lives have influenced our lives of faith. Who have been our exemplars? Shaped us through their examples. Romans 16.

What's Happening at FCC

Important Announcement - Please Read!

Family Promise has alerted us that they have received new families into the program and now face urgent supply needs. If possible, **can you bring to Saturday's All Board**

Retreat or Sunday's worship service any of the following:

- New blankets (very urgent; they just did four intakes),
- Plastic spoons (also very low),
- 3T and 4T pull-ups,
- Liquid hand soap (large refill bottles, not dispensers),
- 39-gallon black trash bags (with built-in ties),
- Regular laundry detergent (pods are preferred)
- Dye-free laundry detergent (for parents with infants, usually labeled "free and clear"),

- Dryer sheets,
- Coffee, dry creamer, sugar in pourable/sealable container,
- Toilet paper (if you'll permit, they humbly request at least as many ply as you have thumbs).

Thank you sincerely for your consideration!

Mission of the Month, Indiana Youth Group (IYG)

Indiana Youth Group (IYG) was founded in 1987 by Franklin College grads and partners Chris Gonzalez and Jeff Werner. Both men volunteered for the Gay and Lesbian Switchboard in Indianapolis and noticed the huge number of calls coming from youth under age 21 with issues of homelessness, suicide and dropout.

For over 30 years the mission of IYG has been to create safe spaces, provide wellness programming and educate LGBTQ youth and the community. The result is self-actualized, competent adults providing leadership and advocacy in our greater community.

With the assistance of grants, donations and fund raising, IYG moved into a newer and larger facility a few weeks ago. The new facility is located at 3733 N. Meridian and will allow IYG to increase its programming.

This year our monetary donations will be used in the following areas:

- SWAP Closet- IYG youth can obtain appropriate clothing for job interviews, school, or other life situations. IYG is also accepting donations of gently used clothing for these purposes.
- Food Pantry – Each day that IYG is open meals provided by volunteer organizations are served to the youth. Often times this meal is the only food some of the youth have that day. The Pantry is available to provide nourishing food to youth for those days when the Center is closed.
- In late summer 2018, IYG and Trinity Episcopal Church will be opening Trinity House, an LGBTQ homeless shelter which will have space for 14 youth. Our donations will help furnish this facility to provide safe housing for youth who have been outcast from their families because they are LGBTQ.

Our generous support will help make a better present for the young people in our community. Within the last decade there has been a national project titled “It Gets Better”

to give hope to LGBTQ individuals. It can be better, today with our assistance

Pantry Items of the Month

During February we are collecting the following items: bar soap, jelly/jam, canned spaghetti, and canned tuna/chicken

Ash Wednesday February 14 - 7 p.m.

A time of focus and blessing. We will celebrate Taize-style with chanting and reflection with optional communion and the imposition of ashes. And it's St. Valentine's Day! What could be more appropriate (we are working on how to fit these two themes together!)

Our congregation is invited to this new and exciting workshop!

Environmentally Responsible Investing for Congregations Workshop

Date: Thursday, March 1st, 2018

7:00 - 8:30 p.m.

St. Luke's United Methodist Church

100 W. 86th Street

Indianapolis, IN 46260

Environmentally responsible ways to invest endowment funds and other pools of money is a topic of frequent debate in many organizations including congregations. These discussions are often fueled by media coverage or by single issue advocates but do not apply a more systematic approach using key environmental and creation care principles. This workshop addresses directly the important role congregational investment leaders can play in developing key principles, assessing responsible investment choices, assuring financial performance and communicating the principles, practices, and results to the congregation and community. The workshop is also targeted for individuals within congregations that perceive the benefit to this approach as well

Please RSVP [HERE](#) for this FREE event!

Pastoral Care

Please contact Rev. Michael at (708) 691-0003.