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FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

E-pistle for the Week of July 4, 2019

Dear First Congregational:

There are not too many UCC mega churches where thousands of people worship under the same roof. Yet, at the 32nd General Synod worship service on Sunday, June 23, over 4,000 people gathered to worship and praise God. The Rev. Traci Blackmon preached about how God's light shines when we follow the Jesus of justice. During this worship service, Miah Yager, a young adult living with developmental disabilities and member at First Congregational of Boulder, CO, performed a liturgical dance while a soloist sang about God's liberating love. It truly was beautiful to behold the ways we come together as one, as diverse and beloved children of God.



Blessings,
Pastor Sarah

Worship

Adult Class - 9:45 a.m.

July 7 - 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 be preaching on "Let the Children Come to Me."

Scripture: Matthew 18:1-5 & Matthew 19:13-15



What's Happening at FCC

Parlor Dreams Brainstorming Session - Saturday, July 6, 10am

Please come to a brainstorming session on Saturday, 7/6, at 10 am. The Parlor is widely used for a variety of purposes, and is showing signs of wear and tear. Several have made suggestions in recent years about next steps for this area. Please come to share your thoughts, or email me with ideas and suggestions.

Spiritual Explorers, Sunday, July 7, 12:15 PM (in the library)

FCC Spiritual Explorers will discuss which spiritual practices to focus on in coming months, such as silence, gratitude, poetry, journaling, music, and ways God is calling us. All are welcome!

Community Singing practices on Wed, July 10, 6:00-7:30pm

Our church has been hosting a small group test, to practice a special singalong technique. It is led by Sally McSpadden, who is a music teacher at Orchard School, a co-founder of Justice Choir - Indianapolis, and a member of Indianapolis Women's Chorus, among many other musical credits. We are invited to join her 'group sing' practices in the Mayflower Room. It includes all genre of music, and the key thing is to share community and fun with those involved. Sally emphasizes that musical skill is not necessary!

Green Team Tip

Cooking out this holiday? Enjoy one burger (preferably turkey or veggie) but don't go overboard on beef which causes so much pollution. (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. Please keep them coming!

July Mission of the Month: Underneath It All

This mission provides underwear and school uniforms for children in IHN/Family Promise Aftercare. The Aftercare Program of Family Promise/IHN helps homeless families who get housing remain housed. You can help in any of the ways listed below.

1. **Buy underwear/socks/undershirts/underpants** in any size from **child size 4 to adult Large** - boys or girls. Put in the white laundry baskets during **July**.

2. **Donate new or gently used pants, shirts, skirts, or jumpers**-all sizes from child size 4 to adult. **Shirts** must have collars and can be **any solid color**, without decoration or logo. **Pants, skirts, or jumpers** must be a solid color (**tan, navy or black**) with no decoration.
3. **Donate \$ in July to buy uniforms or underwear in-** change, dollar bills and checks designated **Underneath It All** in the memo line will help. We will buy clothes with the money donated.

With the year-round school calendar, school starts again in early Aug for many schools, so new uniforms will be needed soon. Past donations have provided each child in the Aftercare Program at least 1 full new uniform including underwear and socks. This is much appreciated by the families and Family Promise, so please continue to be generous.

For questions or help with this ministry, please contact Sandy Wood csjlwood@att.net 317-863-8238 (home) or 317-225-6206 (cell).

Pantry Items of the Month



During July we are collecting the following items: juice, pasta, canned meat, pancake mix, shampoo and conditioner.

Pastoral Care

Pastor Sarah will be on vacation July 8-14. While she is away, Pastor Carol can be reached at (317)496-9732 or casowle@gmail.com.

THIS WEEK AT FIRST CONGREGATIONAL

Thurs – Fri, July 4 & 5		Office Closed
Saturday, July 6	10:00 a.m.	Parlor Brainstorming Session
Saturday, July 6	10:30 a.m.	Bell Choir
Sunday, July 7	9:45 a.m.	Sunday Adult Class
Sunday, July 7	11:00 a.m.	Worship
Sunday, July 7	12:15 p.m.	Spiritual Explorers
Wednesday, July 10	6:00 p.m.	Community Singing
Thursday, July 11	1:00 p.m.	Men’s Lunch

Saturday, July 13

10:30 a.m.

Bell Choir

Sunday, July 14

9:45 a.m.

Sunday Adult Class

Sunday, July 14

11:00 a.m.

Worship w/ Pastor Carol Sowle
preaching