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# FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

E-pistle for the Week of June 6, 2019



## Dear First Congregational:

Since December of 2018, as a church we've experimented with a new way of creating space in the sanctuary for all ages to feel included and welcomed in worship. The Playground Team helped develop this space with the help and support of the Worship and Faith Board and the Church Council. As with any new effort, we are learning as we go. We'd like to take time to thoughtfully share reflections, feedback and questions about the Playground.

When we started the Playground in December, we said we wanted to get a sense of how it's going after the first six months and check in with the congregation. Guess what? It's

that time. So plan to join us after worship on June 30 for a Buzz discussion and pitch-in. This will be a time for sharing and dreaming and working together so we can continue to work at offering an extravagant welcome to all ages and all abilities in worship.

Blessings,  
Pastor Sarah

## **Worship**

### **Adult Class - 9:45 a.m.**

June 9 - We write letters to congress every year in support of the Bread for the World organization and ending childhood hunger. If you want to learn more about the organization and their efforts comes to the class on Sunday before church.

### **Sunday Worship Service - 11:00 a.m.**

The Creative Worship Design Team has been hard at work designing innovations to our weekly worship experience. Last Sunday we celebrated Pride Sunday with new songs, an inspiring sermon from guest minister Rev. Lawrence Richardson, and a circular community around the sanctuary following communion.

This Sunday is Pentecost, and the CWD has some more creativity built into worship. As those at the first Pentecost heard many voices at once as the Spirit moved through their midst, we'll experience some of the same. Please come this Sunday with some thoughtful responses to these questions:

- What is the Spirit saying to us today?
- How is the Spirit moving in our lives, in our church?

Everyone will have the opportunity to express thoughts as the Spirit moves through our worship community in this special service. Please be a part of this Pentecost re-creation!

**Sermon:** "Listening to the Still Speaking God"

**Scripture:** John 14:8-17



### **What's Happening at FCC**

#### **STONEWALL UPRISING on PBS, THIS FRIDAY, June 7th**

Last Sunday you heard both Rev. Lawrence Richardson and Bob Cook speak the significance of Stonewall and the Gay Pride movement. This Friday, June 7th, there will be a documentary on WFYI- PBS at 9 PM sharing the story of the Stonewall uprising.

#### **PRIDE - THIS Saturday, June 8th**

There is still time to participate in the PRIDE parade this Saturday, June 8. Please email Bob Cook [bobcook359@yahoo.com](mailto:bobcook359@yahoo.com) immediately if you have not previously signed up and need the details of where to



meet.

\* **Breakfast:** UCC Parade participants from multiple UCC churches may meet at First Congregational for a light breakfast buffet about 8 am.

\* **Carpool:** We can carpool from FCC to downtown to ease parking. People might want to organize as those only doing the parade and those who'd like to stay at least for part of the festival.

\* **Parade:** Usually involves time between 9:30 am - 11:30 and walking about 2 miles. We are looking at carpooling from the church to enable ease of parking.

\* **Festival Booth:** Reserve a two hour time slot between noon and 6 pm. We hope to have 2 -3 members in the booth during these times.

### **Reduce, Reuse, Recycle Sale, Saturday June 15: 9 a.m. – 2 p.m.**

Plan now to bring your useful (but now useless to you) items to sell.

As in the past, 6-foot tables are \$10; longer 8-foot ones are \$12 this year. You set up, sell, keep the income, and clean up. Items should be brought Friday afternoon, if possible.



As you do your spring cleaning, set aside those extras that you want to contribute to recycle to someone else while reducing your own inventory. If you think you do not have enough to sell to make purchasing a table feasible, you are still welcome to bring things for the church's table. In that case, please sign up for a couple hours overseeing the sale at that table. We also need a couple of people to be present at the church before the sale (preferably by 8 a.m. – bargain hunters arrive early) and as the sale begins when a crowd is often experienced.

Questions?? Inquiries to any Green Team member: Katie Booth, Nancy Dickinson, Rich Gibson, Bill Gillette, Ann Leatherman, Paul Terheide

**Public Forum on Childhood Hunger & Poverty, Saturday, June 15**

Church Women United is sponsoring a panel discussion at the Interchurch Center at 1100 W. 42nd street on Saturday, June 15 from 10 am - 12:30 pm that is open to the public. There will be speakers from Bread, Gleaners, and other food service organizations participating, sharing info about local conditions and efforts in the fight against hunger. Come and learn more about how you can help! Any questions, please contact Nancy Dickinson or Karen Walker.





**CHURCH WOMEN UNITED  
INDIANAPOLIS CHAPTER PRESENTS:**



**PUBLIC FORUM ON  
CHILDHOOD HUNGER  
AND POVERTY**

**June 15, 2019  
10:00 a.m.-12:30 p.m.  
Indiana Interchurch Center  
Krannert Meeting Room  
1100 W. 42nd Street, Indianapolis, IN**

**FORUM PANELISTS INCLUDE:**



**Dr. Leah Gunning Francis**, Vice President for  
Academic Affairs and Dean of the Faculty,  
Christian Theological Seminary



**David Miner**, Program Chair  
Bread for the World



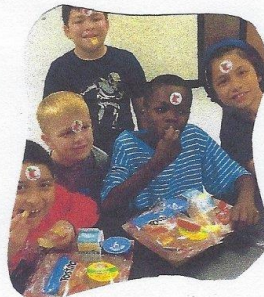
**Mary Dubinin**, Food Programs Director  
Gleaners Food Bank



**Rev. Dr. Theron D. Williams**  
Sr. Pastor, Mt. Carmel Church

**ALONG WITH:**  
Representation from the Office of Mayor  
Joe Hogsett

**Congressman Andre Carson's Office:**  
Invited



**FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC**

***You are encouraged to bring one or more nonperishable food items with you to  
the Forum***

**Buzz & Pitch-In - Sunday, June 30th**



Please join us after worship on Sunday, June 30th for a Buzz discussion and pitch-in as we reflect on the Playground. Come with your thoughts, questions and feedback about our experiment with a space in our sanctuary where all ages can gather to experience worship. We started the Playground the first Sunday of Advent and we want to hear from you.

### **Green Team Tip**

Take an eco-trip or excursion. Look for offerings that don't hurt natural resources, wildlife, or people. (If you want to share a green habit, please send it to [hoot.gibson.tds@gmail.com](mailto:hoot.gibson.tds@gmail.com).)

### **Food Donations for the Northside Pantry**

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

### **June Mission of the Month: Damien Center**

Founded in 1987, the Damien Center is the oldest and largest organization in Indiana addressing the health needs of individuals with HIV. Currently the Damien Center serves over 4,000 individuals affected by HIV/AIDS through a comprehensive and innovative approach to HIV care and prevention.

Even though we hear of the many achievements in medications used to treat HIV here are a couple statistics to keep in mind. In the general population, 1 out of every 6 persons infected with HIV does not know it. 51% of youth between 13 – 24 who are living with HIV, have never been tested. Let's help keep HIV testing and education accessible to Central Indiana through our support of the Damien Center.

### **Pantry Items of the Month**



During June we are collecting the following items: pudding mix, jello, canned vegetables,

soup and toothpaste.

### **Pastoral Care**

Pastor Sarah can be reached at (386) 478-9012 or at [pastorsarah@fcindy.org](mailto:pastorsarah@fcindy.org).

### **THIS WEEK AT FIRST CONGREGATIONAL**

|                           |                   |  |
|---------------------------|-------------------|--|
| <b>Thursday, June 6</b>   | <b>7:00 p.m.</b>  | Choir Rehearsal  |
| <b>Saturday, June 8</b>   | <b>8:00 a.m.</b>  | Pride Breakfast & Carpool                                      |
| <b>Sunday, June 9</b>     | <b>9:45 a.m.</b>  | Sunday Adult Class   |
| <b>Sunday, June 9</b>     | <b>11:00 a.m.</b> | Worship – Pentecost Sunday                                     |
| <b>Sunday, June 9</b>     | <b>12:15 p.m.</b> | 50 <sup>th</sup> Wedding Celebration –<br>Richard & Susan Kent |
| <b>Sunday, June 9</b>     | <b>12:15 p.m.</b> | Prayground Team  |
| <b>Sunday, June 9</b>     | <b>12:30 p.m.</b> | Outreach & Service   |
| <b>Wednesday, June 12</b> | <b>11:00 a.m.</b> | Music Support Team   |
| <b>Wednesday, June 12</b> | <b>5:00 p.m.</b>  | Mental Health Team   |
| <b>Wednesday, June 12</b> | <b>7:00 p.m.</b>  | Church Council   |
| <b>Thursday, June 13</b>  | <b>1:00 p.m.</b>  | Men’s Lunch  |
| <b>Thursday, June 13</b>  | <b>7:00 p.m.</b>  | Choir Rehearsal  |
| <b>Saturday, June 15</b>  | <b>8:00 a.m.</b>  | Reduce, Reuse, Recycle Sale                                    |
| <b>Sunday, June 16</b>    | <b>9:45 a.m.</b>  | Letter writing in the narthex                                  |
| <b>Sunday, June 16</b>    | <b>11:00 a.m.</b> | Worship w/ Bread for the World<br>Offering of Letters          |



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# FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

E-pistle for the Week of June 13, 2019



**Dear First Congregational:**

For more than half of my childhood, my family depended on nutritional assistance because we lived in poverty. In the 1980s, this program was called food stamps and free lunch. This poverty was not the result of being lazy or not being smart. It was a combination of severe mental illness of my father, divorce, low wages for public teachers, and having a large family. I am grateful for the advocacy work of Bread for the World that fights for every child in the world who deserves a chance to grow strong and healthy. I am grateful that members of First Congregational have supported Bread for the World's Offering of Letters to Congress for many years, faithfully adding our voices to the call for justice.

We will take time this Sunday during worship to write letters to Congress so that more children will know the love of their neighbors and not go to bed hungry. Our Bread for the World Team will lead us in this important time together as we pour out our prayers and take action to help save the lives of children. The goal is to help to meet the international goal of ending hunger by 2030. Together, with God's love in Jesus Christ, we believe this is possible.

Blessings,  
Pastor Sarah



## Worship

### Adult Class - 9:45 a.m.

June 16 - No class. Feel free to use this time to write letters to congress in support of the Bread for the World organization and ending childhood hunger.

### Sunday Worship Service - 11:00 a.m.

This Sunday is Bread for the World Sunday.

Pastor Sarah will be preaching on "Love for the World."

**Scripture:** Isaiah 58:5-11 & Matthew 22:39-40

In Indiana,  
**5** of every **6** meals  
for the hungry come from  
federal programs like

**SNAP, WIC, &  
School Lunches.**



**1** meal comes  
from **Churches  
& Charities.**

### What's Happening at FCC

**Reduce, Reuse, Recycle Sale, THIS Saturday June 15: 9 a.m. – 2 p.m.**

Vendors for the sale can set up any time on Friday from 10 a.m. on.

Help would be appreciated at 10 a.m. to set up tables.

If you haven't already reserved a table, 6-foot tables are \$10; longer 8-foot ones are \$12 this year. You set up, sell, keep the income, and clean up.



If you think you do not have enough to sell to make purchasing a table feasible, you are still welcome to bring things for the church's table. In that case, please sign up for a couple hours overseeing the sale at that table. We also need a couple of people to be present at the church before the sale (preferably by 8 a.m. – bargain hunters arrive early) and as the sale begins when a crowd is often experienced. Questions?? Inquiries to any Green Team member: Katie Booth, Nancy Dickinson, Rich Gibson, Bill Gillette, Ann Leatherman, Paul Terheide

#### **Public Forum on Childhood Hunger & Poverty, Saturday, June 15**

Church Women United is sponsoring a panel discussion at the Interchurch Center at 1100 W. 42nd street on Saturday, June 15 from 10 am - 12:30 pm that is open to the public. There will be speakers from Bread, Gleaners, and other food service organizations participating, sharing info about local conditions and efforts in the fight against hunger. Come and learn more about how you can help! Any questions, please contact Nancy Dickinson or Karen Walker.



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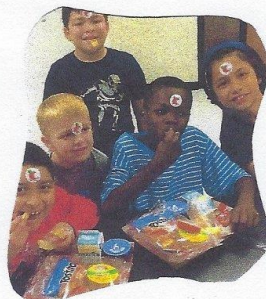
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**Rev. Dr. Theron D. Williams**  
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**FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC**

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the Forum***

**July Colony Deadline - Saturday, June 15th**

Some of you have already begun sending in articles and announcements for the July Colony newsletter. Thank you! All articles and announcements for the July Colony need to be submitted to Shannon (shannon@fcindy.org) by June 15th, though she is willing to extend a grace period through Monday, June 17th.





### Pardon Our Dust

We are in the process of 'refreshing' the coat room - cleaning out and sprucing up, hopefully done within a week! This is not an endpoint for that room - there are so many ways we could use that space as we imagine our future with this wonderful building. Wendy (House and Grounds) and the Trustees continue to address a long list of maintenance, clean up, and improvement opportunities. For this particular project special thanks go to Nancy, Lianna, and Randy! Any questions or concerns about what has happened to stuff in the coat room, please contact Karen Walker.

### You're invited to the United Church of Christ General Synod! June 21-25



You are invited to join First Congregational members and staff Lianna Campos, Pastor Sarah Lund and Shannon Abbott at the United Church of Christ General Synod, June 21<sup>st</sup>-25<sup>th</sup>! Check [www.ucc.org](http://www.ucc.org) or [www.synod2019.org](http://www.synod2019.org) for live streaming. The *Breaking the Silence Sunday Resolution*, co-sponsored by First Congregational, will included in the Synod's agenda for discussion and vote.

### Buzz & Pitch-In - Sunday, June 30th



Please join us after worship on Sunday, June 30th for a Buzz discussion and pitch-in as we reflect on the Playground. Come with your thoughts, questions and feedback about our experiment with a space in our sanctuary where all ages can gather to experience worship. We started the Playground the first Sunday of Advent and we want to hear from you.

### **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!

### **Green Team Tip**

Find a green hotel. Reuse the sheets and towels, take short showers, turn off air conditioning and switch off the lights when you go out. (If you want to share a green habit, please send it to [hoot.gibson.tds@gmail.com](mailto:hoot.gibson.tds@gmail.com).)

### **Food Donations for the Northside Pantry**

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

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Founded in 1987, the Damien Center is the oldest and largest organization in Indiana addressing the health needs of individuals with HIV. Currently the Damien Center serves over 4,000 individuals affected by HIV/AIDS through a comprehensive and innovative approach to HIV care and prevention.

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a couple statistics to keep in mind. In the general population, 1 out of every 6 persons infected with HIV does not know it. 51% of youth between 13 – 24 who are living with HIV, have never been tested. Let's help keep HIV testing and education accessible to Central Indiana through our support of the Damien Center.

### Pantry Items of the Month



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### Pastoral Care

Pastor Sarah can be reached at (386) 478-9012 or at [pastorsarah@fcindy.org](mailto:pastorsarah@fcindy.org). Pastor Sarah will be at the UCC General Synod from June 20-26. During this time, please contact Pastor Carol for pastoral care needs at (317) 496-9732 or [casowle@gmail.com](mailto:casowle@gmail.com).

### THIS WEEK AT FIRST CONGREGATIONAL

|   |            |  |
|---|------------|--|
| Thursday, June 13                         | 1:00 p.m.  | Men's Lunch  |
| Saturday, June 15                         | 9:00 a.m.  | Reduce, Reuse, Recycle Sale                                  |
| Sunday, June 16                           | 9:45 a.m.  | No Sunday Adult Class – Letter Writing (Bread for the World) |
| Sunday, June 16                           | 11:00 a.m. | Worship w/Bread for the World Offering of Letters            |
| Tuesday, June 18                          | 1:30 p.m.  | Circle IV  |
| Thursday, June 20 –<br>Wednesday, June 26 |            | UCC General Synod in Milwaukee, WI                           |
| Sunday, June 23                           | 9:45 a.m.  | Sunday Adult Class   |
| Sunday, June 23                           | 11:00 a.m. | Worship  |
| Sunday, June 23                           | 12:30 p.m. | Worship & Faith Meeting                                      |

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# FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

E-pistle for the Week of June 20, 2019

**Dear First Congregational:**

Our congregation is part of a large, national network of progressive congregations in the United Church of Christ. This week I'll be joining with delegates and visitors in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, for our 32<sup>nd</sup> General Synod, a big family reunion with worship, workshops, business, and fellowship. Joining me will be our Vice Moderator, Lianna Campos, in her role as a Member in Discernment in our Indiana-Kentucky Conference and Shannon Abbott as one of the Wellness Ministry leaders. I'll be working 12 hour days in my national role as Minister for Disabilities and Mental Health Justice, a busy week of staffing booths, supporting volunteers and guiding delegates through the resolution process for the Opioid Crisis Response Resolution and the Mental Health Network as a Historically Under-represented Group (HUG) resolution.

I invite you to keep our UCC church family in your prayers during this important time in the life of our denomination. The theme is, "Let your Light Shine Before Others" from Matthew 5:16. Follow along with us by going to this website for updates and

livestreaming: <https://www.synod2019.org/en/uccsynod2019>.

I remain grateful to each of you for your support of this ministry we share to the wider church. Special words of thanks to Carol Sowle as our Pastoral Care Associate for preaching and caring for the congregation this coming week. I look forward to sharing with you stories of great hope and love upon my return for worship on Sunday, June 30<sup>th</sup>.

Blessings,  
Pastor Sarah



### **Worship**

#### **Adult Class - 9:45 a.m.**

June 23 - 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 Carol will be preaching on "Who You Gonna Call?"

**Scripture:** Luke 8:26-39

### **What's Happening at FCC**

#### **Friday Night at the Movies, 6/21, 6:30ish**

Piggy-backing on a St Peter's UCC program, let's meet on the third Friday each month at 6:30ish at Keystone Art Cinema at 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 with our fellow FCC folk, as well as getting to know and share with St Peter's people. Questions? Contact Wendy Baldwin



**You're invited to the United Church of Christ General Synod! June 21-25**



You are invited to join First Congregational members and staff Lianna Campos, Pastor Sarah Lund and Shannon Abbott at the United Church of Christ General Synod, June 21<sup>st</sup>-25<sup>th</sup>! Go to: <https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PL6VgfHt6zEy7DVkQMy-HxeKJAlMnVfIUa> for live streaming. The *Breaking the Silence Sunday Resolution*, co-sponsored by First Congregational, will included in the Synod's agenda for discussion and vote.

**A BIG THANKS** to all who participated in and helped in any way with our "Reduce, Reuse,



Recycle Sale" last Saturday. Although the weather was terrible which reduced our bargain hunters to almost zero, we did make \$101 and cleared out of the church much "stuff" we no longer use or need. We still have a couple of TV's to get rid of-- if you have any ideas on "how," please see Wendy.  
The Green Team

**Bread for the World Update**

Before, during, and after worship last Sunday we wrote 56 letters to our Representatives and Senators urging their support of H. Res. 189 in the House and support for increasing U.S. funding of global nutrition programs to \$250 million in the 2020 appropriations bill. If you were away for Father's Day and still want to participate, you may write or type letters at home and bring them to church on June 23. We just learned that Rep. Susan Brooks has become a co-sponsor of H. Res. 189, so be sure to thank her for her support of that but urge her support of the \$250 million for global nutrition. You can check the June *Colony* for information on the issues. Follow this link: <https://www.bread.org/get-offering-letters-toolkit> for the latest sample letters. Scroll down to "Sample letters to

Congress" for examples to both Representatives and Senators. Thanks to everyone who participated. - Sue Chapman



### **Pardon Our Dust**

We are in the process of 'refreshing' the coat room - cleaning out and sprucing up, hopefully done within a week! This is not an endpoint for that room - there are so many ways we could use that space as we imagine our future with this wonderful building. Wendy (House and Grounds) and the Trustees continue to address a long list of maintenance, clean up, and improvement opportunities. For this particular project special thanks go to Nancy, Lianna, and Randy! Any questions or concerns about what has happened to stuff in the coat room, please contact Karen Walker.

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### **Parlor dreams and wish list Brainstorming Session, Saturday, July 6 at 10am**

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 Wendy Baldwin 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!

### **Green Team Tip**

Put your electronic devices to sleep. Unplug them at the end of the day; even better, turn off the power strip if they're plugged into one. (If you want to share a green habit, please send it to [hoot.gibson.tds@gmail.com](mailto:hoot.gibson.tds@gmail.com).)

### **Food Donations for the Northside Pantry**

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### **THIS WEEK AT FIRST CONGREGATIONAL**

|                          |                   |   |
|--------------------------|-------------------|---|
| <b>Friday, June 21</b>   | <b>6:30 p.m.</b>  | Friday Night at the Movies<br>(Keystone Art Cinema) |
| <b>Saturday, June 22</b> | <b>5:00 p.m.</b>  | Parent's Night Out                                  |
| <b>Sunday, June 23</b>   | <b>9:45 a.m.</b>  | Sunday Adult Class                                  |
| <b>Sunday, June 23</b>   | <b>11:00 a.m.</b> | Worship w/ Pastor Carol Sowle<br>preaching          |
| <b>Thursday, June 27</b> | <b>11:45 a.m.</b> | Women's Lunch                                       |
| <b>Thursday, June 27</b> | <b>1:00 p.m.</b>  | Men's Lunch   |
| <b>Sunday, June 30</b>   | <b>9:45 a.m.</b>  | Sunday Adult Class                                  |
| <b>Sunday, June 30</b>   | <b>11:00 a.m.</b> | Worship   |
| <b>Sunday, June 30</b>   | <b>12:30 p.m.</b> | Buzz: Playground Feedback<br>w/light pitch-in lunch |

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# FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

E-pistle for the Week of June 27, 2019

**Dear First Congregational:**

I returned safely home last night from our United Church of Christ national biennial gathering, the 32<sup>nd</sup> General Synod in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, graciously hosted by the Wisconsin Conference of the UCC. What a fabulous time being Church together!

Highlights include:

1. Passage of the Break the Silence Sunday Resolution co-sponsored by our congregation
2. Passage of the Mental Health Network Resolution becoming a Historically Underrepresented Group
3. Passage of the Green New Deal Resolution supporting our mission to be a Green Church
4. Creating space for individuals and groups to experience care as we provided a Self-Care Suite and Community Care Space for the first time at General Synod
5. Standing on the arrest line with Rev. Traci Blackmon and other interfaith leaders at the Milwaukee ICE building to witness to God's desire for justice and peace for refugees
6. Celebrating fellowship with the Indiana-Kentucky Conference delegates and Conference



Minister, the Rev. Chad Abbott and Shannon Abbott

7. Sharing reflections about disabilities justice and mental health justice at the Health and Wholeness Advocacy luncheon
8. Experiencing the Gala dinner and Gospel Choir from Trinity United Church of Christ of Chicago
9. Learning from civil rights leader and thinker Ruby Sales about systemic racism and the Church
10. Speaking on a panel at the Open and Affirming National Gathering about the intersectionality of race, ability, gender identity and sexual orientation
11. Supporting youth as they wrestled with the tension within the wider UCC of the diversity of views as they realized not all UCC churches are Open and Affirming
12. Supporting Shannon Abbott in her Wellness Ministry Workshop, offering healing and positive energy to delegates
13. Speaking at the Members in Discernment Breakfast an encouraging word as they discern and navigate their vocational journey in the midst of caring for their whole selves: mind, body, and spirit
14. Meeting with Conference Ministers from across the UCC and learning about their churches desire to be WISE (Welcoming, Inclusive, Supportive, and Engaged) for mental health and A2A (Accessible to All)
15. Learning about how our churches can be involved in a healing response to the opioid crisis and train ourselves to respond to overdoses in a way that saves lives
16. Celebrating the newly formed fellowship of Latinx in the UCC called The Collectivo
17. Electing our new Associate General Minister, the Rev. Dr. Karen Georgia Thompson, a colleague and friend of mine from our days serving together in the Florida Conference of the UCC
18. The robust discussion as we re-elected our General Minister and President, the Rev. Dr. John Dorhauer, about the role of diversity in our top leadership positions
19. Witnessing our own Vice Moderator Lianna Campos provide important leadership as she hosted a "Be the Church" workshop and faithfully created space for people to learn and heal
20. Connecting with old friends and making new friends as we seek to be the Body of Christ together and being reminded that First Congregation UCC in Indianapolis is part of a broad network of congregations across the country and together, with God's help, we can do great things!

Save the date: the 33<sup>rd</sup> General Synod will be July 16-20, 2021 in Kansas City!

Blessings,  
Pastor Sarah

## Worship

### Adult Class - 9:45 a.m.

June 30 - 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 "Going to Jerusalem."

Scripture: Luke 9:51-62

## What's Happening at FCC

### Buzz & Pitch-In - Sunday, June 30th



Please join us after worship on Sunday, June 30th for a Buzz discussion and pitch-in as we reflect on the Playground. Come with your thoughts, questions and feedback about our experiment with a space in our sanctuary where all ages can gather to experience worship. We started the Playground the first Sunday of Advent and we want to hear from you.

### 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!

### Green Team Tip

This week's Tip is from Sandy Woods, with our deepest thanks: The Mailing Station at 71st and Binford will accept cardboard boxes and anyone needing boxes can go pick them up there whenever they are open. They will also take the Styrofoam popcorn and small blow-up plastic "pillows" used for packing. (If you want to share a green habit, please send it to [hoot.gibson.tds@gmail.com](mailto:hoot.gibson.tds@gmail.com).)

### Food Donations for the Northside Pantry

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

### June Mission of the Month: Damien Center



Founded in 1987, the Damien Center is the oldest and largest organization in Indiana addressing the health needs of individuals with HIV. Currently the Damien Center serves over 4,000 individuals affected by HIV/AIDS through a comprehensive and innovative approach to HIV care and prevention.

Even though we hear of the many achievements in medications used to treat HIV here are a couple statistics to keep in mind. In the general population, 1 out of every 6 persons infected with HIV does not know it. 51% of youth between 13 – 24 who are living with HIV, have never been tested. Let's help keep HIV testing and education accessible to Central Indiana through our support of the Damien Center.

### Pantry Items of the Month



During June we are collecting the following items: pudding mix, jello, canned vegetables, soup and toothpaste.

### Pastoral Care

Pastor Sarah can be reached at (386) 478-9012 or at [pastorsarah@fcindy.org](mailto:pastorsarah@fcindy.org).

## **THIS WEEK AT FIRST CONGREGATIONAL**

|                          |                   |                                     |
|--------------------------|-------------------|-------------------------------------|
| <b>Thursday, June 27</b> | <b>11:45 a.m.</b> | <b>Women's Lunch</b>                |
| <b>Thursday, June 27</b> | <b>1:00 p.m.</b>  | <b>Men's Lunch</b>                  |
| <b>Sunday, June 30</b>   | <b>9:45 a.m.</b>  | <b>Sunday Adult Class</b>           |
| <b>Sunday, June 30</b>   | <b>11:00 a.m.</b> | <b>Worship</b>                      |
| <b>Sunday, June 30</b>   | <b>12:15 p.m.</b> | <b>Buzz w/ Pitch-in</b>             |
| <b>Tuesday, July 2</b>   | <b>1:00 p.m.</b>  | <b>Care &amp; Connections</b>       |
| <b>Saturday, July 6</b>  | <b>10:00 a.m.</b> | <b>Parlor Brainstorming Session</b> |
| <b>Saturday, July 6</b>  | <b>10:30 a.m.</b> | <b>Bell Choir</b>                   |
| <b>Sunday, July 7</b>    | <b>9:45 a.m.</b>  | <b>Sunday Adult Class</b>           |
| <b>Sunday, July 7</b>    | <b>11:00 a.m.</b> | <b>Worship</b>                      |
| <b>Sunday, July 7</b>    | <b>12:15 p.m.</b> | <b>Spiritual Explorers</b>          |