

 [FirstCongregationalUCCIndy](#)

 [Forward](#)



FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

E-pistle for the Week of May 2, 2019



Dear First Congregational:

We are a vibrant, growing faith community that seeks to create a church where people can experience what it is like to belong, to heal, and to love. I want to take this opportunity to say “thank you” to our dedicated and faithful church council, committees, and teams who generously share their time, talent, and treasure to support our mission.

I also want to say “thank you” to our gifted and hard working church staff. We are truly blessed as a congregation.

What are you thankful for today?

Blessings,
Pastor Sarah

Make a Resolution on Earth Sunday!

This Sunday we'll be celebrating the Earth. We, the Green Team, are asking you to spend a little time, now would be fine, thinking about some small practice you can do to reduce your own load on the earth, the atmosphere, or the oceans. When you get to church Sunday, you'll find a 3x5 card in your bulletin, and more will be in the pews if you need more. Please write down your resolution on the card, and then put it in the collection plate. Please find a few ideas below to spark your imagination:

- Turn off unused lights. Put outside lights on timers or motion detectors
- Reduce your incandescent bulbs with LEDs
- Turn your thermostat down a degree or two in the winter, and up in the summer
- Plant a tree or bushes; help the earth's ability to convert CO2 to oxygen
- Use sunlight for passive heating--open and close shades and blinds to complement inside temps
- Use solar panels to recharge batteries and power outside lights
- Get active with environmental groups



Worship

Adult Class - 9:45 a.m.

May 5 - presentation by the Green Team.

Sunday Worship Service - 11:00 a.m.

This Sunday we celebrate Earth Sunday, which will be led by the Green Team.

Scripture: Ezekiel 37:1-10

What's Happening at FCC

Join Creative Worship Design!

Did you like our Palm Sunday service with its drama, music, and “protest rally” focus? The Creative Worship Design Team hopes so. This team works together to develop and execute creative worship as a way to broaden the scope of our Sunday morning worship experiences. We’d love to have anyone with an interest join us! Our **next meetings will be on Thursdays – May 2, and May 16 – all at 5:30 PM**. We’re now beginning to work on Pride Sunday (June 2) and Pentecost (June 9), and we’re looking for a variety of creative ideas. Experience has shown us that the more ideas thrown into the mix the better the outcome. Participation with the team for only one Sunday is certainly welcomed, so there’s no requirement to “sign up” for the indefinite future. Come and join us as you feel called. Contact Pastor Sarah for more info.

1857 Society

The Society invites all who remember the church in their wills or estate plans, or plan to do so, to the Society’s initial annual meeting, to be held at noon on Friday May 3 at Marquette Manor. The lunch meal is complimentary and there will be an outside speaker. Watch for reservation instructions. Commitment forms to join the Society are on the bulletin board inside the entrance to the parking lot. Questions? See Bill Gillette.

Poems & Stories, May 19

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: btudlo@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 the first week of May (that's this week!).

First United Congregational UCC

is hosting a

Kid's Night Out!

(aka Parent's Night Off!!!)

Saturday, May 25th 5-9 pm

Drop off your kids (ages 3-12) for a fun-filled night of dinner, crafts, and a movie!

Please register in advance. There is a suggested donation of \$10 per child in lieu of a registration fee.



- *All volunteers have passed a background check.
- **There will be a CPR-certified volunteer on site.
- ***Contact welcome@fcindy.org with any additional questions.



Dress for Success

Spring Cleaning? Have gently used professional women's clothes you are no longer wearing? Dress for Success can give them to women who can't afford interview clothes to help them be better prepared when job hunting. Put donations in the cloakroom by the sign. Thanks!

Green Team Tip

Remember to take your reusable bags when you visit grocery and all other stores. (If you

want to share a green habit, please send it to noot.gibson.tds@gmail.com.)

Food Donations for the Northside Pantry

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

May Mission of the Month: UCC Mental Health Network

The May Mission of the Month supports the UCC Mental Health Network. Your FCC WISE Mental Health Team refers to this resource often as we work to become a WISE Congregation with your support. The UCC Mental Health Network works to reduce stigma and promote the inclusion of people with mental illness/brain disorders and their families in the life, leadership and work of the congregation.

Partner with us:

+While the diagnosis and treatment of serious mental illness is undergoing a revolution, the discrimination against persons with mental health concerns is still a fact of life.

+We believe that education through churches is one key to changing this discrimination.

+We believe that networking together within the UCC and with similar networks in other denominations and faith groups will help us in our efforts.

+We believe that advocacy for individuals and for social and legislative change will improve the life of many.

+We believe that through our own policies and within our own ministries we can model for the rest of society how to be caring congregations and a compassionate denomination.

Thank you for your support.

Pantry Items of the Month



During May we are collecting the following items: ramen noodles, macaroni and cheese, canned fruit, muffin mix, and laundry detergent.

Pastoral Care

Pastor Sarah will be out of the office serving the wider church May 7th – 9th. Pastor Carol can be reached on those days at (317)496-9732 or casowle@gmail.com. After May 9th, Pastor Sarah can be reached at (386) 478-9012 or at pastorsarah@fcindy.org.

THIS WEEK AT FIRST CONGREGATIONAL

Thursday, May 2	1:00 p.m.	Men's Lunch
Thursday, May 2	7:00 p.m.	Choir Rehearsal
Friday, May 3	12:00 p.m.	1857 Society Luncheon @ Marquette Manor
Sunday, May 5	9:45 a.m.	Sunday Adult Class
Sunday, May 5	11:00 a.m.	Worship – Earth Sunday
Sunday, May 5	12:15 p.m.	Summer Series Planning
Tuesday, May 7	10:00 a.m.	Witness & Welcome
Wednesday, May 8	5:30 p.m.	Just Peace Team Meeting
Wednesday, May 8	7:00 p.m.	Church Council
Thursday, May 9	7:00 p.m.	Choir Rehearsal
Sunday, May 12	9:45 a.m.	Sunday Adult Class
Sunday, May 12	11:00 a.m.	Worship w/ Affirmation of Ministry & Reception for Pastor Carol Sowle

 [FirstCongregationalUCCIndy](#)

 [Forward](#)



FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

E-pistle for the Week of May 9, 2019

Dear First Congregational:

Easter season at First Congregational is filled with new life! On Sunday in celebration of Earth Day, our Green Team led us in a thoughtful and inspiring worship service on the importance of clean air. Prior to worship we planted a Princeton Elm tree (special thanks to Katie Booth for her guidance) in the front lawn of the church near the memorial garden; the tree is a gift from Interim Minister Rev. Michael Montgomery. This tree helps clean the air and reminds us of the gifts this congregation has to share as we plant ourselves in our faith, spreading our roots out in connection to others. We grow when we connect to one another.

This Sunday during worship we celebrate new life in the blessing and affirmation of Carol Sowle's ministry with us in her new role as Pastoral Care Associate. Carol's many gifts bless our congregation in the way she thoughtfully cares for us through her actions and her words. She is a wonderful part of our ministry team and we will celebrate her faithfulness to God's call and this church's invitation for her to serve.

I wonder what other new signs of life (big and small) May will bring?

With thanksgiving for new life,
Pastor Sarah

Worship

Adult Class - 9:45 a.m.

May 12 - presentation by the W.I.S.E. (Welcoming, Inclusive, Supportive, Engaged) team, a UCC initiative for mental health.

Sunday Worship Service - 11:00 a.m.

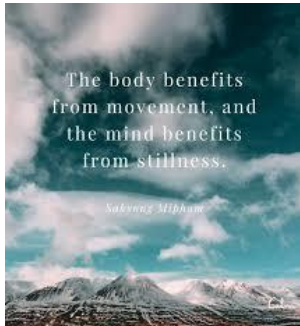
This Sunday Pastor Sarah will preach on "The Case for a Good God."

Scripture: Psalm 23

This Sunday in worship we will also be celebrating an Affirmation of Ministry with Pastor Carol Sowle, our Pastoral Care Associate. Please join us after worship for a reception as we celebrate our ministry together.

What's Happening at FCC

Mindful Movement: Wednesdays, May 15th & 29th, 9:30-10:30 a.m. (in the parlor)



In a fast paced world of go - go - go - we release the need to do - do - do, and realize that we are meant to be in the present moment. We must live one moment at a time, one breath at a time, one movement at a time.

Slow down, quiet the chatter of the mind, mindfully take notice of the sound of the breath, the ground underneath us, each movement of the body, the silence, and the peace that settles into the body, mind, and spirit. In doing so, we remember that *each breath, each movement, each moment is sacred.*

- 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.
- Seating is also available for those more comfortable participating in a chair.

Poems & Stories, May 19

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: btudlo@knox.edu.

Help Wanted: Cookie bakers for receptions



The Memorial Receptions team could use help with providing the home-made cookies for these events. The team will continue to do the set-up, presentation, making coffee, tea, and punch and supplying cheese and crackers, nuts and mints, serving, and cleaning-up. We would appreciate donations of baked goods for these events. The next reception is scheduled for **Saturday, May 25**. If you can help out then or for future receptions, please contact Sue Chapman at carolsuech59@gmail.com or call 317-259-1806. Thank you.

First United Congregational UCC

is hosting a

Kid's Night Out!

(aka Parent's Night Off!!!)

Saturday, May 25th 5-9 pm

Drop off your kids (ages 3-12) for a fun-filled night of dinner, crafts, and a movie!

Please register in advance. There is a suggested donation of \$10 per child in lieu of a registration fee.



- *All volunteers have passed a background check.
- **There will be a CPR-certified volunteer on site.
- ***Contact welcome@fcindy.org with any additional questions.

Update on Days for Girls

DAYS FOR
 GIRLS

The cutters and sewers are nearing our goal, and all purchased products have been received thanks to your generosity. Now we need boxes. Bankers' boxes or the kind printer paper comes in are preferred, but others that aren't too big and can be closed are OK as well. Everything will be boxed up and taken to the Indiana-Kentucky Annual Meeting, which begins on May 31. We'd like the boxes to be here at church by May 29 at the latest. They can be left in the nursery. Thank you.

Picnic Pitch-In: Sunday, June 2



Please plan to attend a pitch-in picnic following worship on Sunday 6/2. The church will provide baked and fried chicken, so please bring salads, desserts, chips, or drinks. A sign-up sheet is available in the Narthex to give an idea of who's bringing what. We'll be sharing fellowship and fun, with a few games also available to participate in. Depending on the weather, we'll gather in the playground or the Mayflower Room.



Dress for Success

Spring Cleaning? Have gently used professional women's clothes you are no longer wearing? Dress for Success can give them to women who can't afford interview clothes to help them be better prepared when job hunting. Put donations in the cloakroom by the sign. Thanks!

Green Team Tip

Share rides to church for meetings and worship whenever feasible. (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!

May Mission of the Month: UCC Mental Health Network



The May Mission of the Month supports the UCC Mental Health Network. Your FCC WISE Mental Health Team refers to this resource often as we work to become a WISE Congregation with your support. The UCC Mental Health Network works to reduce stigma

and promote the inclusion of people with mental illness/brain disorders and their families in the life, leadership and work of the congregation.

Partner with us:

+While the diagnosis and treatment of serious mental illness is undergoing a revolution, the discrimination against persons with mental health concerns is still a fact of life.

+We believe that education through churches is one key to changing this discrimination.

+We believe that networking together within the UCC and with similar networks in other denominations and faith groups will help us in our efforts.

+We believe that advocacy for individuals and for social and legislative change will improve the life of many.

+We believe that through our own policies and within our own ministries we can model for the rest of society how to be caring congregations and a compassionate denomination.

Thank you for your support.

Pantry Items of the Month



During May we are collecting the following items: ramen noodles, macaroni and cheese, canned fruit, muffin mix, and laundry detergent.

Pastoral Care

Pastor Sarah will be out of the office serving the wider church May 14th – 16th. Rev. Worth Hartman may be reached on May 14 at (317) 417-0806

or whartman@westminstervillage.com. Pastor Carol Sowle may be reached May 15 – 16 at (317) 496-9732 or casowle@gmail.com.

THIS WEEK AT FIRST CONGREGATIONAL

Thursday, May 9

7:00 p.m.

Choir Rehearsal

Sunday, May 12

9:45 a.m.

Sunday Adult Class

Sunday, May 12

11:00 a.m.

Worship w/ Affirmation of
Ministry & Reception for Pastor
Carol Sowle

Wednesday, May 15	9:30 a.m.	Mindful Movement
Thursday, May 16	1:00 p.m.	Men's Lunch
Thursday, May 16	7:00 p.m.	Choir Rehearsal
Sunday, May 19	9:45 a.m.	Sunday Adult Class
Sunday, May 19	11:00 a.m.	Worship – Mental Health Sunday

 [FirstCongregationalUCCIndy](#)

 [Forward](#)



FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

E-pistle for the Week of May 16, 2019

Dear First Congregational:

May is Mental Health Awareness Month and this Sunday we will celebrate Mental Health Sunday. Think about a friend or co-worker or family member or neighbor that you can invite them to church this Sunday. Who do you know that might be blessed by a worship service focused on mental health? Did you think of someone? Please consider inviting them.

Most people come to visit a church for the first time through personal invitation. Now is the perfect time. Lots of people don't know that a church like ours exists. Let's spread the good news and share the love.

I look forward to being in worship with you all Sunday!

Blessings,
Pastor Sarah

worsnip

Adult Class - 9:45 a.m.

May 19 - will begin "Anxious To Talk About It: Helping White Christians Talk Faithfully About Racism," by Carolyn B Helsel, a Disciples of Christ minister. We will read this book together during the Adult Ed hour, with time set aside to discuss.

Sunday Worship Service - 11:00 a.m.

This Sunday is Mental Health Sunday. We will be led in worship by our W.I.S.E. Mental Health Team.

Scriptures: John 13:31-35

Acts 11:1-18



What's Happening at FCC

Poems & Stories: Due THIS SUNDAY, May 19th

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: btudlo@knox.edu.

Help Wanted: Cookie bakers for receptions



The Memorial Receptions team could use help with providing the home-made cookies for these events. The team will continue to do the set-up, presentation, making coffee, tea, and punch and supplying cheese and crackers, nuts and mints, serving, and cleaning-up. We would appreciate donations of baked goods for these events. The next reception is scheduled for **Saturday, May 25**. If you can help out then or for future receptions, please contact Sue Chapman at carolsuech59@gmail.com or call 317-259-1806. Thank you.

First United Congregational UCC

is hosting a

Kid's Night Out!

(aka Parent's Night Off!!!)

Saturday, May 25th 5-9 pm

Drop off your kids (ages 3-12) for a fun-filled night of dinner, crafts, and a movie!

Please register in advance. There is a suggested donation of \$10 per child in lieu of a registration fee.



- *All volunteers have passed a background check.
- **There will be a CPR-certified volunteer on site.
- ***Contact welcome@fcindy.org with any additional questions.

Update on Days for Girls

DAYS FOR GIRLS

The cutters and sewers are nearing our goal, and all purchased products have been received thanks to your generosity. Now we need boxes. Bankers' boxes or the kind printer paper comes in are preferred, but others that aren't too big and can be closed are OK as well. Everything will be boxed up and taken to the Indiana-Kentucky Annual Meeting, which begins on May 31. We'd like the boxes to be here at church by May 29 at the latest. They can be left in the nursery. Thank you.

Picnic Pitch-In: Sunday, June 2



Please plan to attend a pitch-in picnic following worship on Sunday 6/2. The church will provide baked and fried chicken, so please bring salads, desserts, chips, or drinks. A sign-up sheet is available in the Narthex to give an idea of who's bringing what. We'll be sharing fellowship and fun, with a few games also available to participate in. Depending on the weather, we'll gather in the playground or the Mayflower Room.

Time to Sign Up for PRIDE - Saturday, June 8th

There are sign up sheets in the vestibule for activities at Indy's PRIDE celebration on Saturday, June 8th. Please indicate as you are able to participate.



* **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.

Contact Bob Cook with questions or for more information.

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 – until 7 p.m.



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



Dress for Success

Spring Cleaning? Have gently used professional women's clothes you are no longer wearing? Dress for Success can give them to women who can't afford interview clothes to help them be better prepared when job hunting. Put donations in the cloakroom by the sign. Thanks!

Green Team Tip 

Use non-chemical fertilizers for your lawn and garden (NaturaLawn is an option). (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!

May Mission of the Month: UCC Mental Health Network



United Church of Christ
MENTAL HEALTH NETWORK

The May Mission of the Month supports the UCC Mental Health Network. Your FCC WISE Mental Health Team refers to this resource often as we work to become a WISE Congregation with your support. The UCC Mental Health Network works to reduce stigma and promote the inclusion of people with mental illness/brain disorders and their families in the life, leadership and work of the congregation.

Partner with us:

+While the diagnosis and treatment of serious mental illness is undergoing a revolution, the discrimination against persons with mental health concerns is still a fact of life.

+We believe that education through churches is one key to changing this discrimination.

+We believe that networking together within the UCC and with similar networks in other denominations and faith groups will help us in our efforts.

+We believe that advocacy for individuals and for social and legislative change will improve the life of many.

+We believe that through our own policies and within our own ministries we can model for the rest of society how to be caring congregations and a compassionate denomination.

Thank you for your support.

Pantry Items of the Month



During May we are collecting the following items: ramen noodles, macaroni and cheese, canned fruit, muffin mix, and laundry detergent.

Pastoral Care

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

THIS WEEK AT FIRST CONGREGATIONAL

Thursday, May 16	1:00 p.m.	Men's Lunch
Thursday, May 16	7:00 p.m.	Choir Rehearsal
Sunday, May 19	9:45 a.m.	Sunday Adult Class
Sunday, May 19	11:00 a.m.	Worship: Mental Health Sunday
Wednesday, May 22	6:30 p.m.	Calling Circle
Thursday, May 23	11:45 a.m.	Women's Lunch
Thursday, May 23	7:00 p.m.	Choir Rehearsal
Saturday, May 25	2:00 p.m.	Elsie Larson Memorial
Saturday, May 25	5:00 p.m.	Parents' Night Out
Sunday, May 26	9:45 a.m.	Sunday Adult Class
Sunday, May 26	11:00 a.m.	Worship
Sunday, May 26	12:15 p.m.	Summer Series Planning Meeting
Sunday, May 26	12:30 p.m.	Worship & Faith Meeting

 [FirstCongregationalUCCIndy](#)

 [Forward](#)



FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

E-pistle for the Week of May 23, 2019

Dear First Congregational:

In celebration of May as Mental Health Awareness Month, last Sunday we experienced worship led by our Mental Health Team. Many of you commented to me how powerful the service was and how much you appreciated being part of a church that is doing this important ministry for mental health. As you know, the United Church of Christ invites all congregations to adopt a covenant to become WISE (Welcoming, Inclusive, Supportive, and Engaged) for mental health. This process involves education, discussion and discernment about what it would mean and what it would look like for First Congregational to be WISE, in addition to our other designations as an ONA Church and Just Peace Church. Many thanks to the Mental Health Team for their vision, passion and hard work to create and lead the Mental Health Sunday.

One opportunity we have before us is to pray and discern together how God is calling our church to support ministries of mental health and wellness. One way you already do that is in your support of me as I serve the wider church as the UCC Minister for Disabilities and

Mental Health Justice. The Mental Health Team has been working with Shannon Abbott on providing wellness ministries (offering yoga sessions and including body mindfulness in various worship services) to our local church and to the wider church (Indiana-Kentucky Conference and National retreats). Together, I invite the whole congregation to discern how First Congregational can fulfill its mission through wellness ministries. Shannon has invited the Mental Health Team and the Council to join her in the discernment of the call to wellness ministries in the UCC. She comes to us already ordained in a different tradition, and she is seeking privilege of call with the UCC. Part of her call includes the support of a local congregation that desires to partner with her in the wellness ministry. Could First Congregational be a partner?

What would it look like for First Congregational to partner with a wellness minister to provide ministry to our local church and to the wider church? How might First Congregational's mission extend beyond the walls of our church building, bringing the healing love of God to others? This is a new way of thinking about ministry and it is exciting to see how God is guiding us to do a new thing.

As we work together to discern the way forward, I invite your prayers as we seek to be faithful to God. In the days and months to come, we will have opportunities to learn more, to discuss the process, to ask questions, and to discern together as a congregation how God is calling us to fulfill our mission as the Body of Christ. Look for more information in the June Colony and in future Epistle and Colony newsletters.

Thanks to each of you for being supportive and open as we journey together in faith.

Blessings,
Pastor Sarah

A Moment of Light

One night this week I decided to "treat" myself to some McDonalds (haha).

Anyway while I was waiting in line to order there was a mother and her two young children (maybe 4 and 7) ordering from the little kiosk when the little girl noticed the elderly homeless man, probably a veteran, walk up and get in line. The little girl who was holding the money preceded to give the money to the homeless man. When the mom noticed what had happened she first reacted with a statement of something to the effect "what are you doing giving him the money you, need to get it back" kind of harshly. Then the mom sort of stopped for a second and went over to the man and said her daughter shouldn't

have done that and apologized and told him that she can't afford to give him all that money but that she would be glad to pay for his meal and asked what he would like. He said a double cheeseburger, small French fries and a glass of water.

Then she asked her daughter why she gave the homeless man the money, and the young girl said "because she wanted to help", the mom knelt down by her daughter told her how proud she was of her and gave her a big hug and kiss.

As I watched the family eating their ice cream treats that the mom had gotten them, and the homeless man eating his meal a few tables over I thought that's a remarkable mom who has raised her children to think of the less fortunate, even when they themselves don't have much, and of the homeless man who ordered a simple meal recognizing their kindness and not taking advantage of the situation.

It gave me some hope for the future of humanity in light of a world which most often seems so harsh and cruel.

- George Meier

Worship

Adult Class - 9:45 a.m.

May 26 - We continue to read and discuss "Anxious To Talk About It: Helping White Christians Talk Faithfully About Racism," by Carolyn B Helsel, a Disciples of Christ minister. We will read this book together during the Adult Ed hour, with time set aside to discuss.

Sunday Worship Service - 11:00 a.m.

This Sunday Pastor Sarah will preach on "An Open Heart."

Scripture: Acts 16: 9-15

What's Happening at FCC

Help Wanted: Cookie bakers for receptions



The Memorial Receptions team could use help with providing the home-made cookies for these events. The team will continue to do the set-up, presentation, making coffee, tea, and punch and supplying cheese and crackers, nuts and mints, serving, and cleaning-up. We would appreciate donations of baked goods for these events. The next reception is scheduled for **THIS SATURDAY, May 25**. If you can help out then or for future receptions, please contact Sue Chapman at carolsuech59@gmail.com or call 317-259-1806. Thank you.

First United Congregational UCC

is hosting a

Kid's Night Out!

(aka Parent's Night Off!!!)

Saturday, May 25th 5-9 pm

Drop off your kids (ages 3-12) for a fun-filled night of dinner, crafts, and a movie!

Please register in advance. There is a suggested donation of \$10 per child in lieu of a registration fee.



- *All volunteers have passed a background check.
- **There will be a CPR-certified volunteer on site.
- ***Contact welcome@fcindy.org with any additional questions.

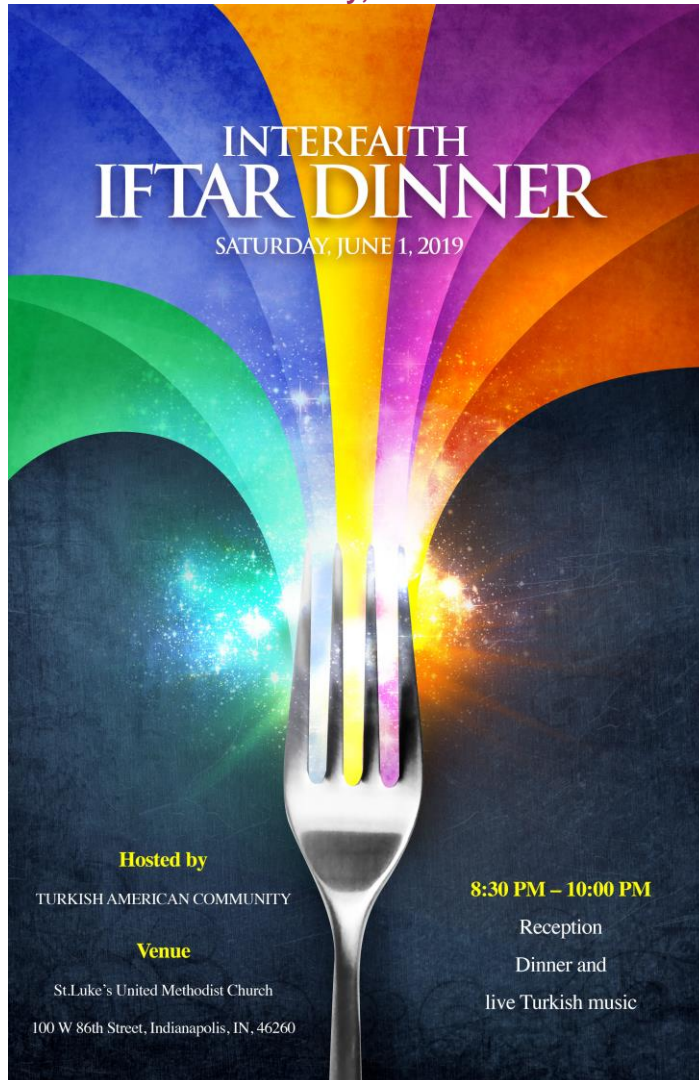
Picnic Pitch-In: Sunday, June 2



Please plan to attend a pitch-in picnic following worship on Sunday 6/2. The church will

provide baked and tried chicken, so please bring salads, desserts, chips, or drinks. A sign-up sheet is available in the Narthex to give an idea of who's bringing what. We'll be sharing fellowship and fun, with a few games also available to participate in. Depending on the weather, we'll gather in the playground or the Mayflower Room.

Interfaith Dinner: Saturday, June 1 at St. Luke's UMC, 8:30 - 10pm



Time to Sign Up for PRIDE - Saturday, June 8th

There are sign up sheets in the vestibule for activities at Indy's PRIDE celebration on Saturday, June 8th. Please indicate as you are able to participate.



* **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.

Contact Bob Cook with questions or for more information.

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 Ierneide



Dress for Success

Spring Cleaning? Have gently used professional women's clothes you are no longer wearing? Dress for Success can give them to women who can't afford interview clothes to help them be better prepared when job hunting. Put donations in the cloakroom by the sign. Thanks!

Green Team Tip

Keep the welfare of the earth in mind as you work and play this weekend.
(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!

May Mission of the Month: UCC Mental Health Network



United Church of Christ
MENTAL HEALTH NETWORK

The May Mission of the Month supports the UCC Mental Health Network. Your FCC WISE Mental Health Team refers to this resource often as we work to become a WISE Congregation with your support. The UCC Mental Health Network works to reduce stigma and promote the inclusion of people with mental illness/brain disorders and their families in the life, leadership and work of the congregation.

Partner with us:

+While the diagnosis and treatment of serious mental illness is undergoing a revolution, the discrimination against persons with mental health concerns is still a fact of life.

+We believe that education through churches is one key to changing this discrimination.

+We believe that networking together within the UCC and with similar networks in other denominations and faith groups will help us in our efforts.

+We believe that advocacy for individuals and for social and legislative change will improve the life of many.

+We believe that through our own policies and within our own ministries we can model for the rest of society how to be caring congregations and a compassionate denomination.

Thank you for your support.

Pantry Items of the Month



During May we are collecting the following items: ramen noodles, macaroni and cheese, canned fruit, muffin mix, and laundry detergent.

Pastoral Care

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

THIS WEEK AT FIRST CONGREGATIONAL

Thursday, May 23	11:45 a.m.	Women's Lunch
Thursday, May 23	7:00 p.m.	Choir Rehearsal
Saturday, May 25	2:00 p.m.	Elsie Larson Memorial
Saturday, May 25	5:00 p.m.	Parent's Night Out (Kid's Night In)
Sunday, May 26	9:45 a.m.	Sunday Adult Class
Sunday, May 26	11:00 a.m.	Worship
Sunday, May 26	12:15 p.m.	Summer Series Planning Meeting
Wednesday, May 29	9:30 a.m.	Mindful Movement
Thursday, May 30	1:00 p.m.	Men's Lunch
Thursday, May 30	7:00 p.m.	Choir Rehearsal
Sunday, June 2	9:45 a.m.	Sunday Adult Class
Sunday, June 2	11:00 a.m.	Worship
Sunday, June 2	12:15 p.m.	Picnic Pitch-In

 [FirstCongregationalUCCIndy](#)

 [Forward](#)



FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

E-pistle for the Week of May 30, 2019

Dear First Congregational:

This Sunday in worship we celebrate PRIDE Sunday during our 25th anniversary year of being Open and Affirming (ONA). What does being ONA mean to you? Here is our ONA Covenant:

Adopted January 2016:

In 1994 First Congregational UCC, Indianapolis, identified itself as an Open and Affirming congregation.

This began our commitment to end ignorance, fear, hatred, prejudice and discrimination against all people. We are called to follow the life and teachings of Jesus who denied no one and welcomed all. We do this by creating a safe place which is free from exploitation and abuse, and that is inclusive for all people to worship God.

We acknowledge that despite our best intentions, we are likely to make mistakes but we commit in advance to listen, confess, reconcile, restore and recommit in love on this journey. Therefore, we enter into this mutual covenant with each other and God to offer an extravagant welcome on behalf of our body of believers to all who would follow Jesus

regardless of gender, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, race, age, education, economic class, nationality, ethnicity, marital status, physical or psychological differences as equals in the life and ministry of our faith community.”

Join me this Sunday as we welcome us a special guest preacher, the Rev. Lawrence Richardson. Learn more about him here:

<http://www.ltrichardson.com/home.html>.

Blessings,
Pastor Sarah

Worship

Adult Class - 9:45 a.m.

June 2 - We continue to read and discuss "Anxious To Talk About It: Helping White Christians Talk Faithfully About Racism," by Carolyn B Helsel, a Disciples of Christ minister. We will read this book together during the Adult Ed hour, with time set aside to discuss.

Sunday Worship Service - 11:00 a.m.

This Sunday we celebrate **PRIDE** Sunday.

Pastor Sarah will lead worship and Rev. Lawrence Richardson will share the message from the perspective of a Black transgender UCC minister. Rev. Richardson is pastor of Linden Hills UCC in MN, and is author of *I Know What Heaven Looks Like: A Modern Day Coming of Age Story*.

Scripture: Hebrews 11:1-16



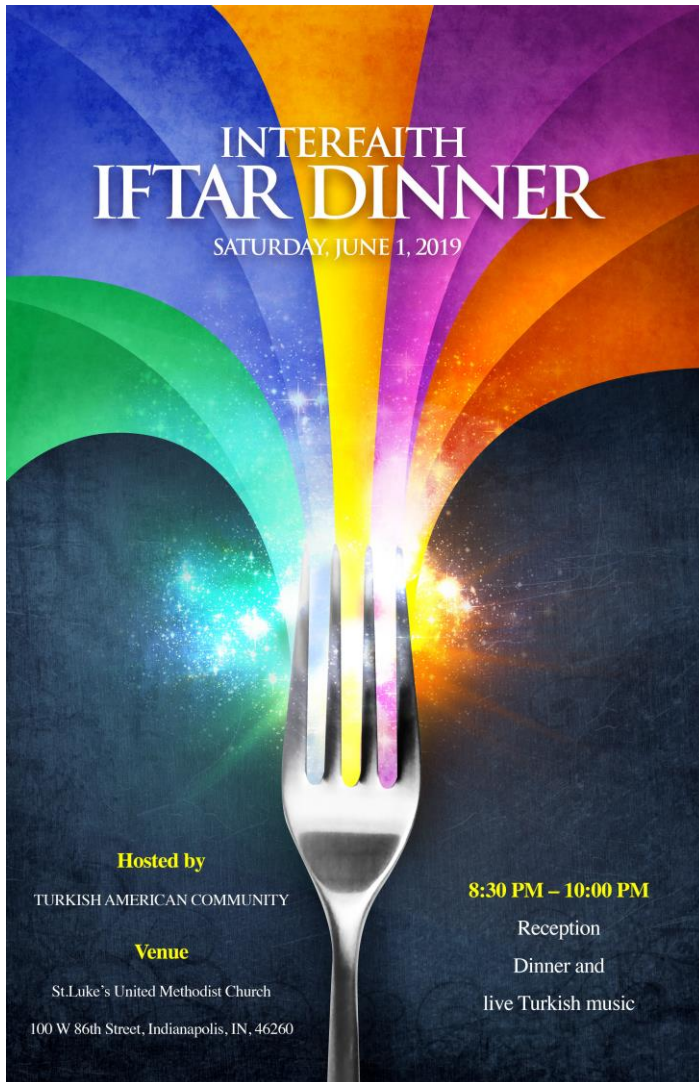
What's Happening at FCC

THIS SUNDAY!!! Picnic Pitch-In: Sunday, June 2



Please plan to attend a pitch-in picnic following worship this Sunday. The church will provide baked and fried chicken, so please bring salads, desserts, chips, or drinks. We'll be sharing fellowship and fun, with a few games also available to participate in. Depending on the weather, we'll gather in the playground or the Mayflower Room.

Interfaith Dinner: THIS SATURDAY, June 1 at St. Luke's UMC, 8:30 - 10pm



Time to Sign Up for PRIDE - Saturday, June 8th

There are sign up sheets in the vestibule for activities at Indy's PRIDE celebration on Saturday, June 8th. Please indicate as you are able to participate.



* **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.

Contact Bob Cook with questions or for more information.

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

Green Team Tip

Keep the welfare of the earth in mind as you work and play this weekend.

(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!

May MISSION of the Month: UCC Mental Health Network



United Church of Christ
MENTAL HEALTH NETWORK

The May Mission of the Month supports the UCC Mental Health Network. Your FCC WISE Mental Health Team refers to this resource often as we work to become a WISE Congregation with your support. The UCC Mental Health Network works to reduce stigma and promote the inclusion of people with mental illness/brain disorders and their families in the life, leadership and work of the congregation.

Partner with us:

+While the diagnosis and treatment of serious mental illness is undergoing a revolution, the discrimination against persons with mental health concerns is still a fact of life.

+We believe that education through churches is one key to changing this discrimination.

+We believe that networking together within the UCC and with similar networks in other denominations and faith groups will help us in our efforts.

+We believe that advocacy for individuals and for social and legislative change will improve the life of many.

+We believe that through our own policies and within our own ministries we can model for the rest of society how to be caring congregations and a compassionate denomination.

Thank you for your support.

Pantry Items of the Month



During May we are collecting the following items: ramen noodles, macaroni and cheese, canned fruit, muffin mix, and laundry detergent.

Pastoral Care

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

Please note: Pastor Sarah will be on family leave (visiting her grandmother who has stage four cancer) from June 4-7. During that time,

THIS WEEK AT FIRST CONGREGATIONAL

Thursday, May 30	1:00 p.m.	Men's Lunch
Thursday, May 30	7:00 p.m.	Choir Rehearsal
Sunday, June 2	9:45 a.m.	Sunday Adult Class
Sunday, June 2	11:00 a.m.	Worship – PRIDE Sunday w/ guest preacher, Rev. Lawrence Richardson
Sunday, June 2	12:15 p.m.	Picnic Pitch-in
Tuesday, June 4	10:00 a.m.	Witness & Welcome
Tuesday, June 4	3:30 p.m.	Care & Connections
Wednesday, June 5	7:00 p.m.	Trustees
Thursday, June 6	7:00 p.m.	Choir Rehearsal
Saturday, June 8	8:00 a.m.	Pride Breakfast & Carpool to Parade
Sunday, June 9	9:45 a.m.	Sunday Adult Class
Sunday, June 9	11:00 a.m.	Worship - Pentecost