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FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

e-pistle for the week of November 1, 2018

Minister's Message

Dear First Congregational Family,

Last Sunday we joyfully celebrated visible signs of new life in our congregation with three baptisms and three new members joining us in covenant with God and one another to:

- serve God with faithfulness;
- treat one another with acceptance, love, and compassion;
- bear witness to the world with love; and
- live our faith humbly, yet boldly.

Thank you to each of you for helping to create, sustain, and nurture a community of faith where people find belonging, healing and love. As we grow in membership and

faithfulness, may we continue to be open to the new life God is bringing to our church, including all of the changes and challenges.

In my professional experiences of leading church growth, transformation and revitalization, I can tell you that it's exciting and rewarding ministry. It's God working with us and through us to do something good in the world. It is sometimes messy and uncomfortable, but often it is beautiful and joyful to see how God's grace, mercy, and love show up time and time again.

May God bless all of the saints of the church, past, present, and future, as we continue to seek to be a servant community of Jesus Christ.

Blessings,
Pastor Sarah

P.S. While I am away, serving the wider church at Widening the Welcome, a UCC ministry for disabilities and inclusion, I leave you in good hands. Nancy Dickinson will preach this Sunday, and Rev. Worth Hartman will be available for pastoral care through November 6th. I will return the office on Wednesday, November 7th, and look forward to seeing you all at Fearless Dialogues at 9am on Sunday, November 11th.

Worship for Sunday

Adult Class

This Sunday, the Adult Class will continue its study of "Reclaiming Jesus: A Confession of Faith in a Time of Crisis," as we discuss the topic "We are One Body."

Traditional Service - 11:00 a.m.

Nancy Dickinson is preaching this Sunday, and Rev. Worth Hartman will be presiding over Communion.

New Creation - 5:30 p.m.

With Pastor Sarah's absence serving the wider church, this Sunday New Creation we'll take a different path. We'll spend our time together delving into the Scripture passage Ruth 1:1-18, exploring what the passage says to us individually, communally, and what it might say to the world. For those who attend morning worship, this is an opportunity for "sermon talk-back." For others it's a Bible Study opportunity. For all, it's an opportunity to

see how the New Creation planning team does it's work! All are welcome.

What's Happening at FCC

A Special Invitation - Friday November 2, 6:00 p.m.

A special invitation to members and friends of First Congregational UCC from our neighbor and friend, Rabbi Dennis Sasso:

Join us in a Shabbat of holiness and joy, solidarity and remembrance to honor the memory of the victims of senseless hatred in Pittsburgh

Congregation Beth-El Zedeck

600 W. 70th Street

Friday, November 2

6:00 p.m.

Shoes, Shoes Shoes

We are wrapping up our shoe collecting drive next week, as we've been collecting gently used shoes to support ZION UCC (Troy Ave) shoe drive. Place your shoes in the boxes in the narthex THANKS!

Lonesome No More - Thursday, November 8, 6:00-8:00 p.m.

Explore the ways different faith communities deal with loneliness and its effect. Learn how you can help and get connected!

The evening will feature American journalist William Bole, co-author of *The Life of Meaning: Reflections on Faith, Doubt, and Repairing the World*, in conversation with Rev. John E. Denson, Jr., our own Rev. Dr. Sarah Lund, Dr. Halima Al-Khattab, and Rabbi Kate Briggs.

This event is Free and open to the public. Walk-ins are welcome, and RSVPs are encouraged at www.spiritandplace.org

Congregation Beth-El Zedeck

600 W. 70th St.

Indianapolis, IN 46260

Fearless Dialogues - November 11, 9:00am

Fearless Dialogues is coming to First Congregational Sunday, November 11 from 9-10:30am in the Mayflower Room, we will finish in time for 11am worship. Join Professor Greg Ellison of Candler School of Ethology and author of the book *Fearless Dialogues*, for a transformative, interactive experience where we engage in practicing the skills we need for having "fearless dialogues" about topics we are passionate about. This event is co-sponsored by Worship and Faith and Witness and Welcome and is open to all who wish to

be challenged and to grow.

What Shall We Bring?

We continue to ask ourselves this question as we prepare our pledges for conservation during worship on November 18th.

Alternative Gift Event at Hoosier Village - November 18, 2:00-6:00pm

Members and friends of FCC are invited to attend this first annual event to be held at the Chapel of Hoosier Village on Sunday, November 18 from 2-6p.m. The goal of this event is to bring together non-profit agencies who serve the poor and disadvantaged and those with special needs in the Indianapolis and Zionsville area. Hoosier Village is located just off of W. 96th St., at 9875 Cherryleaf Dr., between Michigan Rd. and Zionsville Rd.

If you come to the Alternative Gift Event, you will have the opportunity to meet representatives of 12-16 non-profit agencies. You will learn about their mission and the variety of services they provide and be able to make donations in the name of your loved ones. In return for a donation, you will receive a personalized thank you card noting the agency you are supporting and the name of the person you are honoring with your gift. If you have questions, please contact FCC members Rev. Daryl or Anne Greene or Sue Chapman, who serve on the event planning team.

Songs at 7171: Rhythm Quest, November 18, 3:00pm

Music and rhythm have played a role in nearly all of the world's religions. On November 18 at 3:00 PM percussionists Julian Douglas and Michael Rutherford will share some of the common characteristics that make music an indispensable part of many religious experiences and how we can use rhythm to make deeper spiritual connections. No one should miss this opportunity for immersion in Rhythm Quest's spiritual journey, so please plan to bring whatever drum or rhythm instruments you may have access to. See the sign-up sheet in the narthex. Learn more about Rhythm Quest at www.rhythmquest.net. And of course, no one should miss the Thanksgiving snacks that will be part of this gathering!

Flowers Needed

Flowers have a way of bringing beauty into the worship service. There are several empty Sundays on the Flower Calendar located on the bulletin board by the garden doors. Will you sign up for a Sunday? The flowers can be for any occasion and come from the florist, store, or your garden. The cost is \$25 from our florist. If you have any questions, please email Sally Coombs at sallysews73@gmail.com or call 317-446-2853. You can also let Shannon know the occasion at shannon@fcindy.org or call the church office at 317-257-5397.

The following dates are currently available in the Flower Calendar:

November 18

December 9, 16 and 30

Guided Meditation at Hoosier Village

FCC members and friends are invited to attend guided meditation sessions at Hoosier Village. The Meditation Circle meets every Saturday (except Thanksgiving) at 7 p.m. in the Great Hall Conference Room. Use the Chapel parking lot and turn right after entering the hallway. We are listening to Guided Imagery Meditations to let go of stress and find peace and healing. No previous meditation experience necessary. Contact Anne or Daryl Greene for more information.

Green Team Tip

Early voting has begun! - Please vote! But before you do, look at the climate change viewpoint of your candidates.

Foundation - 1857 Society

The newly formed **1857 Society** is up and running. All of us who include First Congregational in our wills or estate plans are eligible to join. Doing so strengthens the church's long term financial base, allowing us to do more of God's work. Consider if this is something of enduring value in which you'd like to participate. Commitment forms are available in the narthex or from the office.

November Mission of the Month is Merom Camp & Retreat Center

I am a believer of the phrase "Catch the Merom Spirit". It is an experience that can be seen, felt and witnessed and whatever else one experiences when attending an event at Merom Camp & Retreat Center, Inc.

I have attended many events at Merom throughout the years, Women's Retreats, 5 K Walks, Young Ambassadors programs, the marriage of my niece Roxanne Hamm just to name a few. But nothing could prepare me for what was to come. The camp Creative Spirit presented the play "Mary Poppins" on their last night of camp. The auditorium was HOT (could use a cooling system) and some of the stage lights went out. While waiting to get the lights fixed, the cast and the youth in the audience started singing. When they sang a version of "Amazing Grace", it brought tears to my eyes and the feeling that God was among us. Oh to "Catch the Merom Spirit".

Please contribute to Merom Camp & Retreat Center, Inc. to support all it has to offer children of ALL AGES.

Pantry Items of the Month

During November we are collecting the following items: fruit cocktail, spaghetti sauce,

quick oats, and toothpaste.

Pastoral Care

While Pastor Sarah is away November 1-6, serving the wider church at Widening the Welcome, a UCC ministry for disabilities and inclusion, you may contact Rev. Worth Hartman for pastoral care at (317) 417-0806 or whartman@westminstervillage.com. After November 6th, Pastor Sarah may be contacted at (386) 478 - 9012 or at pastorsarah@fcindy.org.

This Week at First Congregational

November 4	9:45 a.m.	Adult Class
November 4	11:00 a.m.	Traditional Service with Nancy Dickinson
November 4	5:30 p.m.	New Creation
Monday, November 7	7:00 p.m.	Trustees Meeting
Monday, November 7	7:30 p.m.	New Creation Planning Team
Tuesday, November 8	11:00 a.m.	Witness & Welcome
Tuesday, November 8	7:00 p.m.	Choir Rehearsal
Wednesday, November 10	7:00 p.m.	Meditation at Hoosier Village
November 11	9:00 a.m.	Fearless Dialogue
November 11	11:00 a.m.	Traditional Service
November 11	5:30 p.m.	New Creation