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FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

e-pistle for the week of October 4, 2018

Minister's Message

Dear First Congregational Church Family,

I am looking forward to our time together this Sunday as we celebrate World Communion Sunday, joining with the global body of Christ in celebration of God's love that makes us one. We also have the great opportunity to hear from expert in faith and giving, the Rev. Bruce Barkhauer, who will lead us in Adult Education at 9:45, preach at 11am and facilitate our Buzz Session as we learn more about financially supporting the long-term future our church. Joining him Sunday will be CTS Trustee Ted Waggoner, an attorney specializing in planning for wills and other giving options.

Please join me in becoming a founding member of the new 1857 Society at First Congregational. This is to celebrate members and friends to who commit to including the church in their giving plans such as a will. You will hear more details about the church's new 1857 Society at the Buzz Session this Sunday. I am grateful for this new way for us to

ensure that our church will be on solid ground for generations to come.

See you Sunday!

Blessings,
Pastor Sarah

Worship for Sunday

Adult Class

Join us for a bible study about faith and giving led by guest preacher, Rev. Bruce Barkhauer.

Traditional Service - 11:00 a.m.

(World Communion Sunday)

Guest preacher, Rev. Bruce Barkhauer will be preaching on "Weaving With the Thread of Hope."

Scripture: Acts 9:36-43

New Creation - 5:30 p.m.

The year 1968 saw numerous tumultuous events in our country and in others. Prayers for peace and of gratitude were expressed throughout that year for a variety of reasons. This year has again brought many reasons for prayers for peace and justice, as well as for gratitude. This Sunday in New Creation we'll celebrate World Communion Sunday with prayers for nations around the world, as we compare the events of today with those of 50 years ago. All are welcome to join us in this worship experience.

Who is My Neighbor?

Open Table & Free2Be LGBTQ Advocacy & Youth Services



Every weekend, a congregation of the United Church of Christ in Alabama opens up space for LGBTQ teens to feel safe. Ordinarily, these teens might not step foot on church property, explains the Rev. Ellen Guide Sims, pastor of Open Table UCC in Mobile, Ala., because they may have been hurt by the message of some churches that they are unwelcome.

But Open Table, with the help of an LGBT-advocacy organization in the state and a \$10,000 grant from UCC Justice and Witness Ministries, is showing these teens that there is a place where they can be themselves.

"This is a safe space we provide every Saturday for LGBTQ teens in Mobile," Sims said.

"No exceptions." The church has been able to provide that space for the last 16 months.

[Read more via UC News.](#)

What's Happening at FCC

Buzz - Sunday, October 7

At the Buzz Session next Sunday, attendees will have the opportunity to learn about the new 1857 Society and to express an interest in joining. This Society is a forming community of church members and friends who plan to support First Congregational through bequests and other legacy giving. Some of us have already specified the church in our wills, so are eligible to join as founding members. Come to this Buzz session to also hear from motivational speaker Rev. Bruce Barkhauer, and also from attorney Ted Waggoner who will answer questions on end-of-life documents. (As usual, this Buzz Session features a pitch-in lunch).

Sing-Along Gathering, Sat Oct 13th, 7-8:30 pm

Please join us for fun and fellowship on Saturday evening, 10/13. Using a new songbook, Rise Up Singing, we'll sing a variety of song styles just for the fun of it! Brian Schmidt, a regular visitor at our church, donated the song books. Take a look at the song books in the Narthex, and please sign the signup if you think you can come. We are also looking for someone who can play chords on the guitar or a keyboard, to help us with the accompaniment. Questions? Contact C&C Chair, Wendy Baldwin.

Festival of Faiths, Sunday, Oct. 14, 1-5pm



Sunday October 14 from 1~5pm

Veterans Memorial Plaza



Downtown Indianapolis

The largest gathering of our diverse faith community in Central Indiana

Join hundreds of local congregations

Celebrate, Explore & Share

2018 Theme *Compassion Through Action*

Presented by



Crop Walk - Sunday, October 21st

One way we can be a JUST PEACE Church is to walk to help stop hunger locally and worldwide. Be a walker, help sponsor a walker or donate through church at www.crophunger/walk.org/Indianapolisin/FCindy. Look for the CROP WALK table in the narthex for more information or see Sally Coombs. sallysews73@gmail.com or call 317-446-2853.

New Member Sunday!

Make First Congregational UCC your new church home and join with others on Sunday, October 28th during the 11am worship service. Pastor Sarah is looking forward to hearing about your faith journey and welcoming you into this church family. Contact Pastor Sarah to schedule a conversation about membership pastorsarah@fcindy.org.

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:

October 7, 14, and 21

November 11 and 18

December 9, 16 and 30

Pastoral Transition Team

As Pastor Sarah continues to serve the congregation in her first six months, the church has a Transition Team to offer guidance, support and to ensure open and transparent communication between the pastor and the congregation. The members of this team are Randy Walker, Liana Campos, Jim Rutherford and Nancy Dickinson. Please feel free to be in touch with the Transition Team with any feedback, concerns, or comments that you wish to be addressed during this important time of transition and new beginnings.

Church Social Media/Website/Design Team Update

We are blessed by a talented team of volunteers who help with church social media (Facebook, Instagram, Twitter), Website and design. Team members include Sean Baker, Angela Edwards, Josh Cody, and Pastor Sarah. Pastor Sarah leads this team and is the primary contact for members wishing to share church information on social media and the website. Thank you for helping to spread the good news about the mission and ministry of the church through the website and social media. These are popular platforms for people to first learn about our church and where most of our visitors find information about us. We want to hear from you, so please contact Pastor Sarah with your social media and website updates.

Family Promise Fall Clothing Drive - October 5-21

Check your closets! FCC is participating in Family Promise's clothing drive from Oct. 5-21. Bring your gently used clothing for all ages to church in white plastic kitchen trash bags (or transfer to those supplied at church) and deposit bags in the tall white hampers in the narthex. **(No shoes, accessories, or household items please.)** Clothing bags will be delivered by Outreach & Service to the Day Center from Oct. 22-27 where they will be picked up by Goodwill. Family Promise guests will receive vouchers for each bag donated so they can shop at Goodwill for themselves. Please support this additional way of helping

homeless families.

Green Team Tip

Look over your cleaning products. Are they eco-friendly?

October Mission of the Month is UCC Offering Neighbors In Need

In 2017, one of the recipients in the Indiana-Kentucky conference of this offering used it to feed hungry children in the Elkhorn Valley Schools through the Blessings in a Backpack program.

During the school week, most of these children depend on the federal free and reduced meal program their school offers. Sometimes, the meals at school are the only ones they get. When the school closes its doors on Friday afternoon, many of these children go home to empty cupboards and empty bellies for 65 hours until they return to school on Monday morning.

Blessings in a Backpack, through donations and volunteers, fed Hoosier children in need in the Elkhorn Valley Schools. Thank you for supporting Neighbors in Need with your donation in the Missions or Neighbors in Need envelope.

Pantry Items of the Month

During October we are collecting the following items: bread, baking mixes, canned vegetables, soup and deodorant.

Pastoral Care

Pastor Sarah may be contacted at (386) 478 - 9012 or at pastorsarah@fcindy.org. While Pastor Sarah is serving the wider church for World Mental Health Day October 10 – 12, you may contact Carol Sowle for pastoral care at (317) 496-9732 or casowle@gmail.com.

This Week at First Congregational

Sunday, October 7	12:15 p.m.	Buzz w/ guests Rev. Bruce Barkhauer & Ted Waggoner
Sunday, October 7	5:30 p.m.	New Creation
Tuesday, October 9	7:00 p.m.	Outreach & Service
Wednesday, October 10	6:30 p.m.	Church Council
Wednesday, October 10	7:30 p.m.	New Creation Planning Team
Thursday, October 11	5:45 p.m.	Music Support Team

Thursday, October 11	7:00 p.m.	Choir Rehearsal
Saturday, October 13	7:00 p.m.	Sing-Along Gathering
Sunday, October 14	9:45 a.m.	Sunday Adult Class
Sunday, October 14	11:00 a.m.	Traditional Service
Sunday, October 14	12:15 p.m.	Worship & Faith
Sunday, October 14	5:30 p.m.	New Creation

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FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

e-pistle for the week of October 11, 2018

Minister's Message

Dear First Congregational Family,

I want to take this time to express my deep appreciation and gratitude to our church leadership team. This congregation is blessed with several strong lay leaders who dedicate hours and hours every week to support the ministries of the church. When I first arrived here last spring, I noticed right away how many people in our church care deeply about our mission. We are a dedicated and passionate church.

As your pastor, It is a joy to see new visitors coming to worship on Sunday and then returning and expressing their desire to be part of our church family. On Sunday, October 28 we will have a special worship service where we will celebrate new members joining the church, celebrate the sacrament of baptism, and begin our Annual Campaign. I am thankful that we are a growing Body of Christ, open to welcoming new people and open to being changed by them. What a dynamic and exciting place to be. Thanks to each of you

for making space for others to experience the special blessing of being part of First Congregational.

With gratitude and joy,
Pastor Sarah

Worship for Sunday

Adult Class

Join us as we discuss "Reclaiming Jesus: A Confession of Faith in a Time of Crisis."
October 14 – Jesus is Lord: A Confession of Faith in a Time of Crisis

Traditional Service - 11:00 a.m.

Pastor Sarah will preach on "For God All Things Are Possible."
Scripture: Mark 10:17-31

New Creation - 5:30 p.m.

One of the most positive aspects of God's Radiant Light is its ability to heal and replace shame, depression, or isolation. This Sunday in New Creation we'll hear some stories of such healing in the lives of some individuals. We have seen that testimony is a powerful way to shine God's Radiant Light into the world. Please join us in this sharing.

Who is My Neighbor?

Just Economics (JE) is a small non-profit, advocacy organization whose mission is to educate, advocate, and organize for a just and sustainable local economy in Asheville, NC. JE works on issues of economic justice primarily centered on root causes of poverty including wage disparity. In 2010, Just Economics received a Neighbors in Need grant for their Economic Justice program entitled **Voices**. Voices is an eight-week leadership training program designed to help low-income people find their Voice and advocate for themselves and others.



Executive Director, Vicki Meath, tells of a student advocate named Bea as a reason that JE works tirelessly to end economic injustice. Vicki states, “Bea moved to Asheville with a very young son to escape a dangerous domestic violence situation. She was unable to live near her family for safety reasons. When Bea first moved to town, she lived on the streets with her child. Bea often felt very alone and vulnerable; sometimes they stayed at the Salvation Army, other times they slept in a doorway or under a bridge.”

Vicki further shared, “Eventually Bea moved into a public housing development. She was unable to receive certain services because North Carolina policy requires a single mother to file for child support in order to be eligible. Bea refused fearing that the man who repeatedly beat and threatened to kill her and her child in the past, would find them.”

“Bea felt trapped in a system that often seems hopeless. She joined a Voices class in 2010. She soon found community and felt inspired and empowered. Bea learned about community organizing and the slow road toward creating systematic change, but she felt like if she was not part of working for change, she did not have a right to complain about what was wrong. Soon, Bea found herself addressing Asheville City Council members in a meeting where they were discussing living wages for City contractors. She spoke eloquently during the public comment period about extending the living wage requirement to workers on City contracts. That night, City Council approved the measure! Bea continues to find her voice. Her leadership skills have blossomed. She has assisted with the *Full Plates project* which dramatizes America’s wealth disparities.”

Just Economics staffs bear witness to the core values of the UCC: *changing lives, continuing testament and extravagant welcome*. For more info on JE visit <http://justeconomicswnc.org/>.

What's Happening at FCC

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Notes on the October Buzz

At the October 7 Buzz Session, philanthropy and church financial matters were discussed by our guest speaker. The 1857 Society was also introduced. Having a solid financial base is needed for charitable organizations such as First Congregational in order that their good works can continue through both smooth and rough times. The 1857 Society, named for the formation date of our present church, will strengthen our long term financial position. We know from experience, through the memorial gifts of earlier members, just how valuable that can be. Please consider joining the 1857 Society if your circumstances permit. And be sure to have an up to date will or trust.

Crop Walk - Sunday, October 21st

One way we can be a JUST PEACE Church is to walk to help stop hunger locally and worldwide. Be a walker, help sponsor a walker or donate through church at www.crophunger.org/walk.org/Indianapolisin/FCindy. Look for the CROP WALK table in the narthex for more information or see Sally Coombs. sallysews73@gmail.com or call 317-446-2853.

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Green Team Tip

What responsibility do we have for our children's adequate nutrition? Is not helping them development physically and mentally investing in the earth's future?

October Mission of the Month is the UCC Offering Neighbors In Need

A recent recipient in the Indiana-Kentucky Conference of Neighbors in Need was Plymouth Settlement House in Louisville, KY. It was founded around 1910 and was next door to Plymouth Congregational Church. The church has taken leadership in offering many programs to African-Americans at the House. The 2017 Neighbors in Need offering supported their Youth Homeless Shelter, helping young people in need of a place to stay. Thank you for supporting the Mission of the Month with your donation in the Missions or Neighbors in Need envelope.

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Pastoral Care

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This Week at First Congregational

Sunday, October 14	9:45 a.m.	Sunday Adult Class
Sunday, October 14	11:00 a.m.	Traditional Service
Sunday, October 14	12:15 p.m.	Worship & Faith
Sunday, October 14	5:30 p.m.	New Creation
Wednesday, October 17	7:00 p.m.	Witness & Welcome
Wednesday, October 17	7:30 p.m.	New Creation Planning Team
Thursday, October 18	1:00 p.m.	Men's Lunch
Thursday, October 18	7:00 p.m.	Choir Rehearsal
Saturday, October 20	9:00 a.m.	Annual Ministry Planning

Sunday, October 21	9:45 a.m.	Sunday Adult Class
Sunday, October 21	11:00 a.m.	Traditional Service
Sunday, October 21	2:00 p.m.	Crop Walk
Sunday, October 21	5:30 p.m.	New Creation

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FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

e-pistle for the week of October 18, 2018

Minister's Message

Dear First Congregational Family,

As the crisp cooler air and changing colors of the leaves are marks of change in the natural world, our upcoming Annual Ministry Planning (AMP) session marks another type of change. I am looking forward to this Saturday's gathering that starts at 9:30am and hope you all will join with the leadership teams of the church as we discern where God is calling us to serve in the upcoming year. Last Sunday's sermon reflected on the power of partnering with God as we seek to live faithfully. When we are fully focused on what God calls us to do and who God calls us to be, then "for God, all things are possible" (Mark 10:31). Yet when we try to go off on our own various ways, we likely will find ourselves frustrated and failing. "All things are possible," does not mean that we do everything. In fact, it means the opposite. It means that we focus only on what it is God is calling us as a community of faith to do and to be, and that it most likely will be difficult. That's why we need to do so "for God." There will be moments where we question and struggle...that's

why we need one another and we need God. The key to church vitality is to be focused on our core mission, joined together in fulfilling what God has called us to do and who God calls us to be as the body of Christ. So this will be our great challenge and opportunity: to focus our mission in alignment with where God is calling us, so that partnered with each other and God as our guide, “all things are possible.” I’m anticipating a rich and lively session on Saturday. Keep the church in your prayers as we boldly and faithfully seek to answer God’s call.

With faith and hope for tomorrow,
Pastor Sarah

Worship for Sunday

Adult Class

Join us as we discuss “Reclaiming Jesus: A Confession of Faith in a Time of Crisis.”

Traditional Service - 11:00 a.m.

Pastor Sarah will preach on
Scripture: Mark 10:35-45

New Creation - 5:30 p.m.

This Sunday in New Creation Worship we will wrap up our focus on God’s Radiant Light in our lives. Our culmination will include designing and walking a labyrinth as we consider how God’s light can lead us down pathways toward enduring peace if we purposely follow that path. Please join us in our walk for peace.

From the Desk of the Admin



Pastors are special people, and they do more than any of us realize. They preach messages of hope and justice. They sit with us when we are sick and walk with us through grief. They celebrate with us through births, baptisms, and weddings. They provide counseling and prayers when we need them. They hold safe and sacred space for us as a

bridge between God and the world.

As leaders, teachers, mentors and God's chosen servants, pastors show extravagant love for the people of their congregation and all of God's people. Pastors are also human. They have their own struggles with balancing family, work, personal needs, and resources just as the rest of us. They need friends who will pray for them and encourage them. For their service and love they deserve our gratitude, support, and prayers all year long.

October is celebrated by many as Pastor Appreciation Month. Some ideas/suggestions for showing our appreciation to our pastor and increasing the fruitfulness of her ministry came across my desk this week in one of the publications we receive in the office, so I decided to share these ideas with you in the hopes that you may choose one of these ways (or your own special way) to show your appreciation to Pastor Sarah throughout the remainder of this month.

1. **Pray for your pastor daily.** Be specific. Pray for her health, her messages, her family, and try to put yourself in her place.
2. **Go out of your way to provide gracious words of encouragement.** Write her a note on a prayer card, send a card of appreciation to her home or to the office, call, or send an email. Ask her if she has had a Sabbath of her own this week. (Pastors need constant reminders of self-care.) Go beyond platitudes at the door after Sunday services. We can start by simply saying thank you to our pastor – creatively, tangibly, actively, sincerely.
3. **Consider making an online gift in your pastor's honor to one of the many ministries served through the UCC.** We all know Pastor Sarah has a special connection with Health and Wholeness Ministries, so you may consider making a donation to the UCC Mental Health Network in her honor.

Pastor Sarah, For all you do for this congregation, for the wider Church, for the broken and hurting world around us, for your family, and all of your loved ones, we thank you. May you know that you are loved, that you are appreciated, and may you take time to love and care for yourself and allow others to take care of you from time to time as Christ cares for the Church.

With Gratitude,
Shannon Abbott

What's Happening at FCC

Come help us plan next year at FCC!!

AMP - Annual Ministry Planning is this Saturday, October 20th at 9:30! All are welcome as we look at goals and ideas for next year and work together to discern God's call for us for 2019. There are so many possibilities and we value everyone's input! We will also have a guest - Peter Eckel (yes he is related to Larry) will be discussing the programs launching at IYG at their new location on Meridian, only 4 1/2 miles from us at 38th Street. We will also be talking about Family Promise and looking through all the other opportunities that have been raised through discussions this year - from home meetings through strategic planning. And yes there will be snacks! For more information, please contact Karen Walker

Crop Walk - Sunday, October 21st

CROP WALK is this Sunday October 21st. The WALK is to help stop hunger locally and worldwide. You can still donate on the church's website, give a donation to a walker (Katie, Wendy, Worth, Nancy or Sally and anyone else I forgot) or make a check payable to CWS/CROP to put in the Sunday offering. Gathering time starts at 12:30 on the grounds of CTS by the InterChurch Center at 42nd and Michigan. The WALK starts at 2:00 through the Butler University campus and Tarkington neighborhood. If you are walking, please wear a FCC shirt. Thank you, Sally Coombs.

Family Promise Fall Clothing Drive - ENDS THIS SUNDAY!!!

Check your closets! FCC is participating in Family Promise's clothing drive through this Sunday, October 21. Bring your gently used clothing for all ages to church in white plastic kitchen trash bags and deposit bags in the tall white hampers in the narthex. (No shoes, accessories, or household items please.) Clothing will be delivered by Outreach & Service to the Day Center from Oct. 22-27 where they will be picked up by Goodwill. Family Promise guests will receive vouchers for each bag donated so they can shop at Goodwill for themselves. Please support this additional way of helping homeless families.

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.

Flowers Needed

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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.

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Rhythm Quest Event - November 18

Rhythm Quest is a unique percussion group from Sarasota, Florida. We are fortunate that two of them will be in Indianapolis on November 18, and they will present us with an opportunity at 3:00 PM that day to listen to, learn about, and experience the spiritual aspects of rhythm in our lives and in our world. The Music Support Team hopes you'll be in the Mayflower Room at that time to be a part of the action and enrichment. You can learn more about Rhythm Quest and their music at www.rhythmquest.net. In preparation for this concert/workshop it will be helpful to know how many of us have drums or other percussion instruments that we can bring to participate in a group drum circle as part of the event. A sign-up sheet will be available in the narthex to let us know what to expect for participation.

Pastoral Transition Team

As Pastor Sarah continues to serve the congregation in her first six months, the church has a Transition Team to offer guidance, support and to ensure open and transparent communication between the pastor and the congregation. The members of this team are Randy Walker, Liana Campos, Jim Rutherford and Nancy Dickinson. Please feel free to be in touch with the Transition Team with any feedback, concerns, or comments that you wish to be addressed during this important time of transition and new beginnings.

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Green Team Tip

Are the earth's resources ours to take and use just for fun and for profit? What responsibility do we have for future generations?

October Mission of the Month is the UCC Offering Neighbors In Need

A recent recipient in the Indiana-Kentucky Conference of Neighbors in Need was Plymouth Settlement House in Louisville, KY. It was founded around 1910 and was next door to Plymouth Congregational Church. The church has taken leadership in offering many programs to African-Americans at the House. The 2017 Neighbors in Need offering supported their Youth Homeless Shelter, helping young people in need of a place to stay. Thank you for supporting the Mission of the Month with your donation in the Missions or Neighbors in Need envelope.

Who is My Neighbor?

Understanding their mission is to witness for justice, Memphis, Tennessee's *Workers Interfaith Network (WIN)*, is a humble, yet powerful group of people who assists workers protect their rights as employees from exploitative employers. WIN has developed a reputation in TN as the organization that can assistance a worker recover monies when they have suffered "wage theft" by an unjust employer. Unfortunately, *wage theft* is becoming a common act of withholding an employee's wages by the employer. When employees these face economic hardships at the hands of their employers, it is their family's that suffers this unimaginable injustice as their basic needs are no longer met. This forces some to further struggle to move out of hunger or poverty.



As a 2009 Neighbors In Need grant recipient, WIN's goal is assist workers learn their rights, even that to organize and form unions. Currently, they are collecting hundreds of petition signatures to present to the County Sheriff, urging him to recognize wage theft as a criminal offense. Workers Interfaith Network's Executive Director, Rev. Rebekah Jordan Gienapp, reports good news. "WIN demonstrates to a vulnerable population that when workers and people of faith join together, we are a powerful force for justice. We enabled to eight workers to recover over \$113,000 in unpaid and workers' compensation payments."

Furthermore, Workers Interfaith Network was honored as one of ten grassroots organizations nationwide that received the *2009 Harry Chapin Self-Reliance Award*. The award provides a \$7,000 grant to groups who have been "judged outstanding for the innovative approaches to fighting domestic hunger and poverty". For more information about WIN visit www.workersinterfaithnetwork.org.

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Sunday, October 21	5:30 p.m.	New Creation
Wednesday, October 24	7:30 p.m.	New Creation Planning Team
Thursday, October 25	11:45 a.m.	Women's Lunch
Thursday, October 25	1:00 p.m.	Mental Health Team Meeting
Thursday, October 25	7:00 p.m.	Choir Rehearsal
Sunday, October 28	9:45 a.m.	Sunday Adult Class
Sunday, October 28	11:00 a.m.	Traditional Service – New Member Sunday
Sunday, October 28	5:30 p.m.	New Creation

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FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

e-pistle for the week of October 25, 2018

Minister's Message

Dear First Congregational Family,

On Saturday, October 20, about 27 of us met for our Annual Ministry Planning retreat. We dreamed together about what God is calling us to do and who God is calling us to be for the 2019 ministry year. We began to focus our discernment, embracing the possibility that God is calling our church to be a place to belong, a place to heal and a place to love. We discussed the need to take a sacred pause from hosting two weeks a year with Family Promise and for now, turn our focus on opportunities to serve as a support church. We will use this sacred pause to pray and study alternative ways to be involved in hosting, exploring various models. We will be open to where God's Spirit leads us. We give thanks for the 20 years of faithful ministry as a host congregation, and thank Ann Leatherman and Katie Booth for their leadership as co-coordinators. We also explored other ways the church can support people who are experiencing homelessness and we learned about the Indiana Youth Group's new programs to support youth who are fleeing abusive homes

because they are rejected for being lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender or questioning (LGBTQ). Could God be calling us in 2019 as we celebrate our 25th anniversary of being Open and Affirming to focus our efforts with LGBTQ at risk youth?

The next day, we worshipped together on Sunday morning without any electricity or heat. We accepted the reality, we let go of some of what we had planned, and we adjusted. It's a micro lesson in change and how often we are forced into situations outside of our control. We cannot control the weather and natural disasters. We cannot control the natural death of a loved one. We cannot really control other people. The only thing we can control is ourselves. I am grateful for the wisdom of the 12 step program and the powerful serenity prayer. As we face changes in our personal lives, in our church, in our society, in the nation, and in the world, let's remain mindful of the wisdom that's guided generations to a deep sense of peace:

God grant me the serenity
to accept the things I cannot change;
courage to change the things I can;
and wisdom to know the difference.

Living one day at a time;
enjoying one moment at a time;
accepting hardships as the pathway to peace; taking, as God did, this sinful world as it is,
not as I would have it; trusting that God will make all things right if I surrender to God's Will;
that I may be reasonably happy in this life and supremely happy with God forever in the next.
Amen.

- Reinhold Niebuhr (1892-1971)

Blessings,
Pastor Sarah

Worship for Sunday

Adult Class

Do you want to dialog about how to our faith in Jesus is relevant for the 21st Century? Then join us this Sunday for episode 3 of the series Reclaiming Jesus: A Confession of Faith in a Time of Crisis.

Episode 3 asks:

- What does it mean to you to be made in God's image and likeness,
- How does it make you feel that the person who is vastly different from you is also created in the image of God?
- Since all of us on this earth are created in the image of God, how do we reconcile our differences?

Come to talk - or just to listen and reflect. We are in this exploration together! Meet at 9:45 in the library, 2nd floor.

Traditional Service - 11:00 a.m.

Pastor Sarah will preach on "God, Help Us to Love."

Scripture: Mark 10:46-52

New Creation - 5:30 p.m.

As our season of Stewardship begins, New Creation Worship will take another new turn for several weeks. In our afternoon time of worship we'll be exploring the same scripture passages that are the focus of Pastor Sarah's morning sermon. This Sunday we'll hear – and see – the story of the blind beggar Bartimaeus, and consider how our life experience may intersect with his. Please join us in this time of worship combined with some study of Holy Scripture.

What's Happening at FCC

In Memory

Catharine D. (Tucker) Lichtenauer, 87, Indianapolis, died Oct. 19, 2018.



Born in Hammond, Ind. on Aug. 22, 1931, Mrs. Lichtenauer was a graduate of DePauw University, where she met her husband of almost 50 years, Robert A. Lichtenauer, who preceded her in death in 2001. She received her certification as a licensed dietician from Massachusetts General Hospital and was a member of Alpha Phi sorority.

A passionate supporter of the arts, she was a trustee and volunteer with the Indianapolis Museum of Art for more than 45 years, serving as a docent and chair of the docent class, member and chair of the Fine Arts Committee, and member of the Collections Committee. She also enjoyed traveling on museum-led tours throughout Europe, the Middle East, Africa and Asia.

Mrs. Lichtenauer was a member of the Junior League of Indianapolis for nearly 60 years, serving as assistant treasurer and board member. She also was a longtime member of the Indianapolis Woman's Club and served on the board of the Washington Township PTO. She is survived by her children Jennie, Stephen and Thomas, her brother Allen Tucker, and six grandchildren.

Memorial contributions in her honor may be made to Newfields (Indianapolis Museum of Art), Attn: Advancement, 4000 Michigan Rd., Indianapolis, Ind., 46208 or online at discovernewfields.org/give.

Services will be held at 2 p.m., Saturday, Oct. 27 in the First Congregational Church located at 7171 N. Pennsylvania St., of which she was a member, with reception there following the service.

Leppert Mortuary - Nora is handling arrangements.

Young Adult Apple-picking and Pie-baking - Saturday, October 27

Meet at the church to carpool to Anderson Orchard at 1:30 and then bake yummy apple pies at the church afterward. For additional information, contact Lianna at lcampos33@gmail.com or 317-954-1601

Stewardship Season

Today begins Stewardship Season when we begin to pray about God's call to share our gifts to support the 2019 ministries of the church. Pledge cards will be collected on Thanksgiving Sunday, November 18th.

Shoes, Shoes Shoes

We are collecting gently used shoes to support ZION UCC (Troy Ave) shoe drive. Place your shoes in the boxes in the narthex THANKS!

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.

Songs at 7171

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 11 and 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.

October Mission of the Month is the UCC Offering Neighbors In Need

A Tiny House aims to provide big solutions for the South Carolina LGBTQ community. When LGBTQ individuals near the campus of Clemson University, in the areas of upstate South Carolina, unexpectedly find themselves without a home or a place to feel safe, Peace Congregational United Church of Christ will be ready to meet them.



Congregation members and the Clemson community are working side-by-side in the design and construction of a tiny house, a mobile residency for a person in the LGBTQ community who is no longer welcome at home. The project is in progress with the help of a Grant from Neighbors in Need.

Thank you for supporting Neighbors in Need with your donation in the Missions or Neighbors in Need envelope.

Pantry Items of the Month

During October we are collecting the following items: bread, baking mixes, canned vegetables, soup and deodorant.

Pastoral Care

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

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.

This Week at First Congregational

Saturday, October 27	1:30 p.m.	Young Adult Apple Picking & Pie Baking
Saturday, October 27	2:00 p.m.	Memorial Service for Catie Lichtenaur
Sunday, October 28	9:45 a.m.	Adult Class
Sunday, October 28	11:00 a.m.	Traditional Service
Sunday, October 28	5:30 p.m.	New Creation
Wednesday, October 31	7:30 p.m.	New Creation Planning Team
Thursday, November 1	1:00 p.m.	Men's Lunch
Thursday, November 1	7:00 p.m.	Choir Rehearsal
Saturday, November 3	7:00 p.m.	Guided Meditation at Hoosier Village
Sunday, November 4	9:45 a.m.	Sunday Adult Class
Sunday, November 4	11:00 a.m.	Traditional Service w/Nancy Dickinson & Rev. Worth Hartman
Sunday, November 4	5:30 p.m.	New Creation