

 [FirstCongregationalUCCIndy](#)

 [Forward](#)



## e-pistle for the week of May 3, 2018

### **Minister's Message**

#### **Dear First Congregational Family,**

This brief window into spring invites us to pause and soak in all the beauty that surrounds us in the blossoming trees and flowers. The magnolia trees at the church are in full bloom. Today I noticed the petals starting to fall, their white and pink petals twirling downward towards Earth.

This spring season, as May unfolds, I am aware of how precious this window of time is as we open ourselves to new life within and around us. It is a time of transitions and changes. I am inspired by the beauty and strength of the magnolia tree, reminding us that God's love is with us no matter what the season. In times of loss and in times of growth, God is with us. My prayer for us as we journey together in faith is that God's love would continue to guide us in this season with renewed hope.

With springtime hope,  
Pastor Sarah

#### **CPR Certification**

Our tenant, MHCNS, is offering a CPR course for their teachers and parents. They have graciously offered us the opportunity to participate as well. Those who desire to take the class should complete step 1 below, and notify Cheryl or Pastor Sarah so the nursery school can get a good headcount.

**The two-part certification must be taken in this order:**

- 1) Heartsaver CPR First Aid AED Online is \$30 and registration is at <https://elearning.heart.org/course/9>. The class is a total of 6 hours and easily broken into time modules, but must be completed before the next step;
- 2) June 8, 2018 Skills Class with an instructor is approximately \$70 (cash, check or charge to Joe Martin; actual amount will depend on how many take the class) - 9:30-11:30 a.m.

**Worship for Sunday**

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

Our topic this week will be “Bread for the World” issues for 2018. This session will give background for our annual writing of letters to alleviate hunger through Bread for the World. Meet in the library.

**Traditional Service - 11:00 a.m.**

The message from Pastor Sarah will be "God of the Oppressed."

.

**New Creation - 5:30 p.m.**

Join us for a special experience of "dinner church." Come find out what it's all about! Meet in the Mayflower room.

**What's Happening at FCC**

**Mission of the Month, Family Promise**

Our congregation has been active with Family Promise for more than 20 years. We participate in the emergency shelter portion, the Interfaith Hospitality Network, housing families experiencing homelessness. All the needs that we have in our daily lives are cared for by Family Promise for around 50 families every year. The van we drive needs gas, maintenance and insurance. Bus passes are provided to the families. IHN helps families find long-term housing. AfterCare helps them keep it by providing supportive services for up to two years. I encourage you to visit their website to see all that they are doing.

“We are Family Promise because we believe in the promise - the potential - inherent in each family that enters our doors. It also refers to our promise to keep a family together, and to help the family

succeed, through its most difficult time. Since 1994, our volunteers and congregations have helped over 750 families with children. We will continue with urgency to find ways to meet the needs of more families, always with the goal to one day find we are no longer needed.”

<http://www.fpgi.org/who-we-are/our-story>

This month we are asking for assistance in several ways – physical assistance with hosting, financial assistance, and your prayerful support. Our gifts of single dollar bills and loose change this month will go towards helping the organization fund their operations and programs. Larger donations are welcome and should be noted on the check or envelope Family Promise because every child deserves a home.

### **It's Hosting Time!**

We are hosting up to four families currently experiencing homelessness later this month. They will arrive evening of May 20 and stay through the morning of May 27. Please sign up to get their rooms ready for them, stay overnight, fix and serve dinner, provide evening activities for the families, be an evening host, drive the van, put the rooms back to normal after hosting week, or do laundry. It takes a village! Please see Ann Leatherman or Katie Booth. All are welcome.

### **PRIDE 2018**

Anyone interested in helping to plan FCC's participation in the PRIDE parade and festival to be held June 9, please contact Bob Cook 317-401-4889 or [bobcook359@yahoo.com](mailto:bobcook359@yahoo.com)

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

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

### **Pastoral Care**

Please contact Pastor Sarah at (386) - 478 - 9012 or [pastorsarah@fcindy.org](mailto:pastorsarah@fcindy.org).